The Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba 1797-1878 and descendants: a Braehour Gunn family history

(previously called *Donald Gunn Family History*)

by Joyce (Gunn) Anaka

with additions by Alastair J. Gunn

Alastair Gunn (AG) is a first cousin five times removed of the Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba (a Braehour[1] *Gunn, the continuing traditional Clan Gunn Chief line) and therefore is also related to Joyce (Gunn) Anaka 1926-2024 who was a great grand-daughter of Donald Gunn.*

Joyce used a typewriter for her material, the 'computer additions' at the bottom of some of her pages are by me (AG). Joyce (Gunn) Anaka wrote her Introduction and the fifteen Chapters.

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[1] Braehour Gunns? Braehour is the farm in Caithness, Scotland from which the Hon. Donald Gunn emigrated. I discuss this Braehour Gunn issue in my Introduction.

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The page numbers given here are as below, please ignore Joyce (Gunn) Anaka's typed page numbers.

Joyce (Gunn) Anaka; a biography *by Alastair Gunn*

Joyce Gunn was born 16 February 1926 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada and died 3 February 2004 at Yorkton.

Joyce was the only child of John Alexander Gunn. He was born at Fort Qu'appele, Saskatchewan, in 1883 and died at Good Spirit Lake (originally called Devil's Lake) near Yorkton, Saskatchewan, in 1947 due to TB. John was the youngest of seven children (four males, three females - his siblings mainly settled at Preeceville, a little way north from Good Spirit Lake).

John's father Donald Gunn married twice – from the second marriage there were two children, John and his sister Mary. Mary did not marry. John was seven years younger than the youngest child from Donald's first marriage. Donald's father was the Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba the key person of this book.

John served in the Boer War and World War One, including time as a Prisoner of War. On his return from World War One he began developing 'Gunn's Beach' at Good Spirit Lake, as a resort. John's father, Donald Gunn, had settled there in 1887. There is still a settlement next to the lake called 'Donald Gunn.'

Joyce's mother was Margaret Ruth Walker 1898 – 1976. Margaret was English, and her siblings remained in England.

Joyce served two years in the Canadian Women's Army Corps 1944-1946. Otherwise, she spent many years at 'Gunn's Beach' as postmistress, storekeeper and resort operator.

Joyce married William 'Bill' Anaka (1932 – 2017) in 1971. They did not have any children. Records show that Joyce Gunn and Bill Anaka started to participate in the annual regional Christmas bird count in 1953 and this continued for over 50 years. Obviously both Bill and Joyce were dedicated 'birders' and very interested in nature. The Anaka Farm was on the south edge of Good Spirit Lake, like Gunn's Beach, so Joyce and he knew each other over many years before they married.

The Gunn property was sold to the Good Spirit Provincial Park in 1970 but ten acres and some buildings were reserved on a lifetime lease for their personal use in Summer. Joyce and Bill worked at the Park for some years after 1971.

Joyce was always interested in family history but, as she mentions in her Introduction, especially following 1983 when Agnes (Gunn) Potter died and left family history material to Joyce. Agnes was the daughter of George Gunn 1870-1943, a brother of Joyce's father.

I have not found the copyright holder of her material but I hope Joyce (and Agnes) would appreciate that I am trying to keep Braehour Gunn genealogy alive for future generations. It's important not least as the Braehour Gunns are the ongoing traditional Clan Gunn Chief line. If you do hold the copyright I apologise, please contact me.

Introduction *by Joyce (Gunn) Anaka*

INTRODUCTION

This is a history of Donald Gunn's family, from his roots in Scotland, to the twelve new branches he started in Canada. It is not complete. Some of the branches have only a limited amount of material available to use. Others have a good deal. Other than dates and names, and in some cases even those, most of the information has come from old letters I had in my possession.

When various members of the Gunn family wrote to their brother Donald little did they know that he would keep the letters and two generations later, and in some cases more than one hundred years later, descendants would be reading them. The letters give us a window on their world and their thoughts. At times we feel as though we are eavesdropping on a personal conversation. We may not always agree with their ideas or with their opinion of a certain individual but it is still, to us living near the end of the twentieth century, a different world indeed.

This history takes in Donald Gunn, who came to Canada in 1813, and Margaret Swain, his wife. It also includes their twelve children and their approximately fifty grandchildren. Also, where possible, the names of the great-grandchildren.

For the names of many of the descendants and information about who they married and where they lived credit must go to Agnes (Gunn) Potter who kept trying to get me interested in working on the Gunn family tree. When she died in 1983 she left me all her material, including her scrapbook with many clippings of weddings, obituaries, etc. This helped to revive my interest in the family. A family reunion held in Lintlaw, Saskatchewan in 1985 provided more information on the William Gunn and Janet (Gunn) Muckle branches. My thanks to Amy Johnstone of Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, and Bob Muckle of Clandeboye, Manitoba.

Most of the material has been gleaned from old books, archive material, clippings, etc. And old letters! After reading and re-reading dozens of them over the past year I feel that the writers are not just old relatives, but rather, old friends. May this look at some of our earlier family members give you the same feeling.

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Introduction *by Alastair Gunn*

Joyce (Gunn) Anaka's work is to be highly commended not least as it helps keep alive the detail of a major Gunn family namely the Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba, Canada, and his descendants. They are part of the Braehour Gunns.

Much of the early Clan 'history' offered in Chapter One is, though, mythology. The Gunns were actually the original Highland settlers of Northern Scotland. The first Gunn known to history was Coroner Gunn whose job is accurately described. We have no idea who the Coroner's parents and grandparents were so any names before him are totally invented. It is very unlikely that the Coroner was killed by the powerful Keith family, the Coroner was the holder of an important legal position. It is far more likely that he was killed by a band of Caithness men - 'Caiths' (not Keiths) if you like. The Coroner lived in a castle as it went with his job, which included storing goods for the King taken as payment from criminals. This 'job castle' is proved by how the Gunns did not continue to live in it after the Coroner's death. If it had been a Gunn castle then Gunns would have continued to live there.

The sons who may or may not have survived the Coroner are unclear bar for James 'Killernan' Gunn, the eldest son and Robert Gunn of the Braemore Gunns. The list of Chiefs offered is very questionable, for an accurate table see the next page. At the bottom right of it is Alexander Gunn of Dalnaglaton who is discussed by Joyce Anaka on her page 4, my page 10.

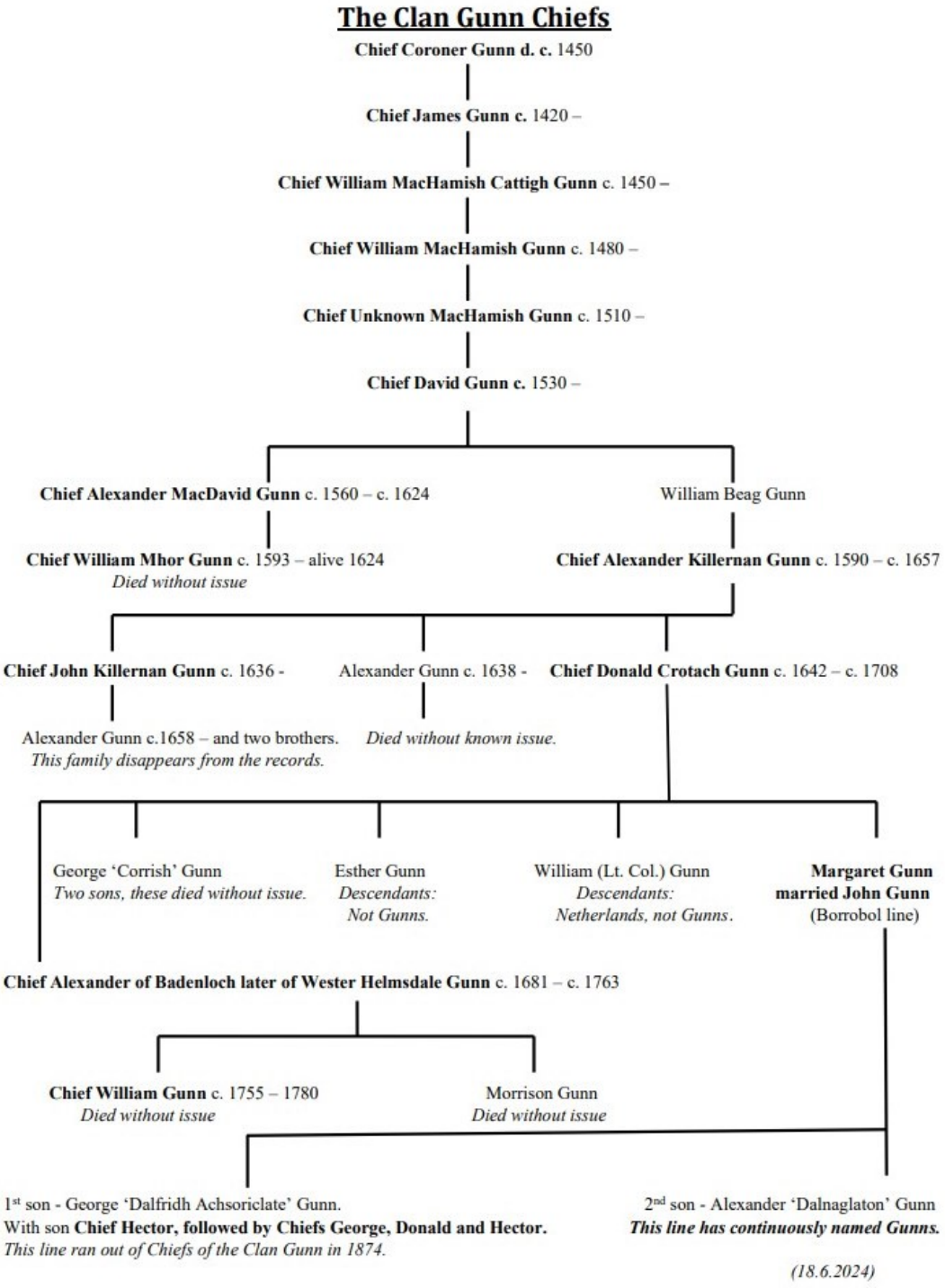
Joyce Anaka is correct when she gives Donald Gunn's father as William Gunn in Braehour, William's father was John 'Dalnaglaton Braehour' Gunn 1721-1810, John's father was the already mentioned Alexander Gunn of Dalnaglaton 1685-1765. Alexander was the second son of Margaret Gunn, daughter of Chief Donald Crotach Gunn (the Gunn Chief line can inherit through the female line). The elder son was George 'Dalfridh, Achsoriclate' from whom came the legally established Clan Gunn Chief line established in 1803. That line became extinct of Gunns in 1874. See the next page.

Margaret Gunn married John Gunn of Borrobol, Kinbrace Farm, Rumsdale and Grimachary. John's father was George Gunn of Borrobol, other sons of George migrated to the Red River Settlement in Canada. George Gunn's father was John 'Navidale Borrobol' Gunn.

As Joyce Anaka wrote, the Hon. Donald Gunn of Braehour's father was William Gunn in Braehour. William's father was the already mentioned John 1721-1810. John and his wife Mary / Marjorie Dunbar had perhaps eight children, definitely seven children. Obviously, this includes William. The children were Alexander (perhaps), Jean, Angus, Mary, George, John, Donald 1770-1861 (sennachy) and William. Donald the sennachy (of Braehour and Brawlbin) had nine children including Barbara from whom I descend. Barbara's descendants include my great-grandfather the Hon. John Alexander Gunn 1860-1910 of New South Wales Australia, a colonial scientist.

William Gunn of Braehour had two wives, firstly Janet (Jean) Henderson married 3 June 1780 then Jean Sinclair who he married 26 March 1800. From the first wife there were seven children, the youngest being the Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba and from the second wife there were again seven children. The most interesting of these is William Gunn 1804-1888 of Waranga Basin, Victoria, Australia, a pastoralist of real wealth. William Gunn was half-brother to Donald Gunn of Manitoba. One of his William's daughters visited Canada which is discussed in the text and in Appendix Three.

The Clan Gunn Chiefs – a chart *by Alastair Gunn*


The Clan Gunn Chiefs
Chief Coroner Gunn d. c. 1450
Chief James Gunn c. 1420 –
Chief William MacHamish Cattigh Gunn c. 1450 –
Chief William MacHamish Gunn c. 1480 –
Chief Unknown MacHamish Gunn c. 1510 –
Chief David Gunn c. 1530 –
Chief Alexander MacDavid Gunn c. 1560 – c. 1624
William Beag Gunn
Chief William Mhor Gunn c. 1593 – alive 1624
Died without issue
Chief Alexander Killernan Gunn c. 1590 – c. 1657
Chief John Killernan Gunn c. 1636 -
Alexander Gunn c. 1638 -
Chief Donald Crotach Gunn c. 1642 – c. 1708
Alexander Gunn c.1658 – and two brothers.
This family disappears from the records.
Died without known issue.
George 'Corrish' Gunn
Two sons, these died without issue.
Esther Gunn
Descendants:
Not Gunns.
William (Lt. Col.) Gunn
Descendants:
Netherlands, not Gunns.
Margaret Gunn married John Gunn
(Borrobol line)
Chief Alexander of Badenloch later of Wester Helmsdale Gunn c. 1681 – c. 1763
Chief William Gunn c. 1755 – 1780
Died without issue
Morrison Gunn
Died without issue
1st son - George 'Dalfridh Achsoriclate' Gunn.
With son Chief Hector, followed by Chiefs George, Donald and Hector.
This line ran out of Chiefs of the Clan Gunn in 1874.
2nd son - Alexander 'Dalnaglaton' Gunn
This line has continuously named Gunns.
(18.6.2024)

Braehour farm in 1928 and 2011.

Chapter One – The Gunns in Scotland. The beginning

CHAPTER ONE--THE BEGINNING

Who were the Gunns? What was the background of the family that produced the Donald Gunn that left Scotland in the early 1800's to come to Canada? Most historians seem to differ in their accounts of the beginning of the clan in Scotland. In the "The Clans and Tartans of Scotland" Robert Bain says: "The territory of the Clan Gunn was in Caithness and Sutherland, and the clan claim to be descended from Olave the Black, Norse King of Man and the Isles, who died in 1237."

A manuscript by Dr. Patrick Brodie Henderson, written in 1841, apparently said that the clan Gunn originated in the twelfth century within the parish of Wick. He went on to say that "about the year 1100, Olaf, a man of great bravery, dwelt in the isle of Graemsay, one of the Orkneys. He had three sons--Waltheof, Gun, and Swen. From the second of these, traditionally called the great Gunn of Ulbster, where he dwelt, the clan Gunn deduce their descent".

Still another story, that ties in with the Olaf or Olave theory, appeared in the "Cronicle of Man", published with Camden's 'Britannia' in 1586. It reads as follows: "Godfred or Godred, surnamed Crovan, and son of Harold the Black, of the royal family of Norway, was the first king of Man and his sovereignty appears to have extended over a large portion, if not the whole, of the Western Isles. His reign is supposed to have commenced about the year 1077.

The fifth king of Man from Godfred, and descended from him, was Olave, who, succeeding his father when very young, was deprived of his kingdom by a natural brother named Reginald, and had the island of Lewis assigned to him. After severe and protracted struggles, Olave succeeded in recovering his kingdom, and died king Of Man, in Peel Castle, 18th June 1237.

Olave, by his third wife, Christina, daughter of Farquhar, Earl of Ross, had three sons the first of whom was Guin or Gun, the ancestor of the clan Gunn. The second son was Leoid, Loyd, or Leod, from whom are descended the Macleods and the third son was Leaundris from whom came the clan Landers or Gillanders of Ross-shire, but many of this clan later went by the name Ross.

The Earl of Ross provided for his three grandsons and Guin or Gun was settled in Caithness where the Earl had a good deal of

authority. The Caithness 'Gunns' held their territory until about the middle of the fifteenth century when, after their deadly feuds with the Keiths and other clans, a number of them, with their chief, settled in the neighbouring county of Sutherland where they had the protection of the earls of Sutherland and from them also got some land in Kildonan and elsewhere.

It is believed that the earliest castle or stronghold of the chief of the Gunns was the castle of Halbury at Easter Clyth. It was known as Coroner Gunn's Castle as George Gunn, the chief in the fifteenth century, was also the coroner. (Note: 'crowner', 'crownare' was an officer who apprehended persons accused of a crime against the crown and he also had charge of troops raised in one county). This Coroner Gunn was killed in a battle with the Keiths along with a number of his sons.

Five of the coroner's sons survived him. The eldest, James, from whom the patronymic MacKeamish, 'the son of James', is derived, which distinguished his son and all the subsequent chiefs of the clan. From one of the sons of the coroner, named William, are descended the Wilsons of Caithness, and from Henry the Hendersons. From Robert came the Gunn Robsons and from John, the Gunns M'Ean of Caithness. Both Robert and John had been killed by the Keiths.

James Gunn was succeeded as chieftain by his son William, the first MacKeamish. Alexander Gunn of Killernan was the second, and his son William Gunn the third MacKeamish. John Gunn of Killernan and Navidale was the fourth, and Alexander, also of Killernan and Navidale, was the fifth Mackeamish. Alexander had two sons, Donald and George, and he was succeeded by his eldest, Donald, who was the sixth MacKeamish. That line died out and the decendants of George, the second son of Alexander, became the chiefs of the clan.

It is believed that 'our' Donald Gunn was a descendant of this line tracing his ancestors as follows from Alexander Gunn of Killernan and Navidale in the middle of the 17th century: Alexander, George of Borrobol, John Gunn of Kinbrace, Alexander of Dalnaglaton who died in 1765, John Gunn who died in 1810 and William Gunn of Braehour who was Donald's father.

William Gunn of Braehour had at least one brother, Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin who died in 1861. Donald of Braehour had at least two sons--John of Durness, who died in 1886, and was survived by at least one son, Alexander Gunn of Durness; and a younger son of Donald's, Captain Alexander Gunn of Braehour, born in 1814, who had a son Peter who went to Australia.

It is interesting to note that Donald Gunn of Braehour was known as the Sennachy. In Webster's dictionary it is listed as 'seanachie' from the Gaelic 'seannachaidh', one skilled in

history, a reciter of tales, a bard among the Scottish Highlanders who relates traditions of the clans. This was an uncle of 'our' Donald's and it would seem that both he and his cousin, the Sennachie's son Captain Alexander, developed an interest in history. The Canadian cousin in recording the history of his new country and the Scottish one in researching the Gunns in Scotland.

The above information is included so that a family member wanting to research the early family tree might have some extra names to work with. It is also included so that when the story of Donald Gunn's family in Canada takes shape one can see the origin of some of the oft-repeated names.

Chapter Two - Donald leaves Scotland

CHAPTER TWO

DONALD LEAVES SCOTLAND

And now it is time to tell the story of the ancestor that started our branch of the Gunn clan in Canada!

On the morning of the 28th of June 1813 Donald Gunn set sail for North America. He was with other young men going to work for the Hudson's Bay Company and with families bound for Lord Selkirk's settlement at Red River. It took a great deal of courage and perseverance for those early settlers to survive in the wilderness that was to become Canada as we know it today. Imagine if you can this 16 year old Highland boy leaving his familiar world of heather clad hills and green valleys to make a better life for himself in a distant new world. Donald's older brother, possibly Alexander, went to Australia and became a successful sheep rancher, while Donald signed on with the Hudson's Bay Company.

It was the years of the "Highland Clearances" when crofters and small farmers had been evicted from their homes to make room for sheep farms. As Donald says "many of these unfortunate people were driven.....from their humble, but once happy homes, which they had occupied, and which, in many cases, had been occupied by their forefathers, for many generations, under the good and kind Earls of former times, without knowing where to find a home to shelter themselves and their unfortunate families, and not in a few cases destitute of food, and of means wherewith to procure it. Their only wealth consisted in a few small black cattle and some sheep; these could not be readily turned into cash, and even when these unfortunate people found a market for their stock, the prices were generally so low that selling was but another downward step to ruin.

All who could realize a trifle by the sale of their property turned their thoughts towards the western world, and anxiously waited for the first chance of transporting themselves and their families to the North American continent, expecting there to find a resting place which the beloved land of their forefathers no longer afforded them."

This aided Lord Selkirk's scheme to start a colony at Red River. Some farmers and crofters had already left for what is now the Maritimes and others decided to become settlers in what was being described by agents of Lord Selkirk as "a land flowing with milk and honey, the glory of all lands." The charge was ten pounds sterling per person. For this sum a passage was to be provided to their destination and they were to be furnished with provisions for twelve months after the day of their embarkation.

For those settlers who could not pay their fare they were expected to work the debt off later.

A number of families, accompanied by some unmarried young men and women who were being sent by their families to take up land and get homes ready for their parents and younger family members when the time came when these families too would be evicted, were among the colonists going to Canada in the spring of 1813. To these were added the 'servants', young men like Donald who were hired for three years to serve, some in the fur trade and others in the Colony, for twenty pounds sterling per annum. At the end of their term of service each became entitled to one hundred acres of land in Red River.

Donald, along with other passengers, was taken from Thurso on the mainland of northern Scotland by boat to the port of Stromness on the Orkney Isles where they boarded their ships for Hudson's Bay, a journey that would last until the 12th of August.

In Donald's own words from his book "The History of Manitoba" one gets an idea of just how hard it was to leave the familiar surroundings of one's own country. He says "The colonists and servants began to make their appearance in the good old town of Thurso. Here their stay was short. The agent had a coasting vessel ready to receive and to transport to Stromness the motley crowd of both sexes and of all ages who pressed into the town during the last few days. The embarkation commenced in the forenoon, and by one o'clock all were on board the singularly arranged and singularly freighted craft. The fore part of the hold was formed into a huge bin, filled with oatmeal; the after part of the hold was occupied by two splendid quadrupeds of the bovine tribe (a bull and a cow) from Ball'n'Ghobhainn in Rossshire, and which had travelled so far on their way to the new colony. (Note: there is no mention later of the cattle so one wonders if they ever made it!). All things being ready the sloop hoisted sail. The passengers who had to accommodate themselves on deck raised their bonnets and bade farewell to their beloved friends and relations, who had gathered at this place to give them the last embrace, the last shake of the hand and to see them on board.

The wind blew freshly from the hills and the Water-witch cut her way swiftly through the rough and foamy waves of the Pentland Firth. All on board, except the stout quadrupeds and sailors, were prostrated by that most nauseous complaint, sea-sickness, groaning distressively and heartily wishing themselves once more on terra firma. The oft expressed wish was soon gratified. Late in the evening we came in sight of the little village of Stromness, and soon afterwards were anchored in its quiet and safe harbour, and those who had been sick a few minutes before became suddenly well. A few boats came alongside on which we were embarked and from which we landed a few minutes after. Here we were billeted to the different houses in the town; the Hon. Company allowing each of us a certain sum per diem for

board and lodging. Here we must not omit to state that the aged and the very young, who were going to the colony, had a passage provided for them by sea from Helmsdale, and had arrived at this rendezvous a few hours before us. Ireland and the western islands of Scotland contributed their quota of intending settlers and labourers who were waiting here for a passage to Hudson's Bay.

Stromness, at the time of which we write, was a small village; yet it was honoured and protected by a few companies of pensioners, who were quartered at the place and did duty at a half-moon battery, that stood near the harbour, for the protection of the town and the ships that were constantly calling there. These soldiers and the new-comers filled the little town, and, no doubt, enhanced the price of everything that could contribute to man's comfort, especially food and lodgings. A few found tolerable accommodations, others had to take up their quarters in garrets, every house being occupied to the full extent of its capacity. And, if our Orcadian friends laid a heavy hand on our purses, they repaid us to some extent by many kind words and friendly attentions.

Boat building for the herring fisheries on the coast of Caithness seemed to be the chief, if not the only business, carried on in the place and we may admit that a considerable portion of its wealth was derived from the trade carried on with the ships of all descriptions and of all nations that frequented its commodious and safe harbour. A few days after the landing of the emigrants, the Hudson's Bay ships and a brig bound for the Moravian Missions on the frozen shores of Labrador, under the protection of the Brazen, a sloop of war, came to anchor before the town.

About the 20th of June all were embarked. The colonists were lodged between decks in the Prince of Wales; the Company's servants were put on board the Eddystone. While the vessels lay here an incident occurred which I cannot forbear relating: A fair-haired, blue-eyed lassie had been wooed and won by a fine-looking, athletic young man, who had been her neighbour in her native village; but cruel fate forbade their union. He, on some account, enlisted in the militia, but had not joined his regiment. The dread of eviction from their home, which continually haunted and distressed her parents, reduced her to the necessity of emigrating to the plains of the western wilderness, to prepare, or help to prepare, a resting place for the loved ones she left behind, and who were likely soon to be driven from their once happy home. Her lover followed close in her
footsteps, and overtook her at Thurso. Here he arranged for his passage to Red River and went as far as Stromness, and while the ships lay before that place a recruiting sergeant came to the ship, presented his warrant, seized the young and faithful lover, and took him away to the army, leaving the fair one of his love to mourn her bereavement.

the other to guard their immunities and privileges at all points."

Frank Hunt goes on to describe Donald Gunn's political activity: "Mr. Gunn, who took a leading part in all movements tending to establish a responsible Government in the country- drafting petitions to the Imperial and Canadian Parliaments, presiding at the numerous meetings called for discussion of the theme, one looking forward to the formation of either a Colonial Government under the Crown, or adoption and recognition by Canada.

By his frank utterance and open effort he certainly sacrificed all chance of a seat in the Council of Assiniboia, at that time an object of laudable ambition to the leading men in the settlement, but lived to know that the agitation was not without fruit; it, conjointly with the establishment of a press by Mr. Caldwell, directing attention to the country and hastening the negotiations which ended in the purchase of the Company's rights in the vast domain over which they had so long held undisputed sway. Certainly the most strenuous ambition or pronounced capacity found but meagre scope in the days of which we write, but, both by the old and new regime Mr. Gunn's service was sought to fill various local positions of trust; he being from a very early day joined in the magistracy, presiding as President of the Court of Petty Sessions in his District, and was after appointed Police Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for the Province, Postmaster and Inspector of Fisheries.

These positions are mentioned as showing mainly the unbroken confidence extending over a long lapse of years felt by all classes in the integrity and ability of Mr. Gunn, who, upon the formation of the new Government, waiving his just claims to the representation of his District in the Dominion Parliament as too remote and arduous a task for one of his now advanced years, accepted a seat in the Legislative Council or Upper House of the Manitoba Assembly, which he held until its discontinuance as a public body some five years later, (Note: 1871-1876) voting unhesitatingly himself for its abolition when convinced that its slight function was alike unneeded and an unnecessary stress upon the slender resources of the new Province.

During what is popularly known as the 'Red River troubles' Mr. Gunn had a somewhat unexpected and undesired experience in legislation, being chosen a member to the Provisional Assembly, organized during the winter of the armed resistance to the entry of Hon. Mr. Macdougall, and the arrival of the troops in the spring...Mr. Gunn, who had been one of the most pronounced and active friends of the incoming government, only yielded to the urgent entreaties of the people of St. Andrews to appear as their delegate, in the hope that such joint action on the part of the English and French delegates might be had as would allay the present alarm, and provide a peaceful solution to questions that momentarily threatened collision between these isolated and

The morning of the 28th of June 1813 saw our little fleet of four sails weigh anchor, set sail, and pass on through the mouth slowly and steadily before a fresh breeze of north east wind, and as we sailed along the north coast of our native land, one after another of its lofty mountains seemed to sink its head in the waves and disappear. Sea sickness prostrated many to so great a degree that they could not think of anything but their own suffering, country friends and relatives left behind were all forgotten by these unfortunates; but there were others who were able to reflect and realize their position. All felt sad, but not to an equal degree. Some bade farewell forever to their native hills. Those who were engaged only for a few years kept up their sinking spirits with the thought that their time of service would soon expire and they would return. However few, very few, ever returned. Little did these heavy hearted exiles know, or even think, that there were far greater sufferings ahead. Little did they know that in a few weeks time they would have to endure the burning pain of thyphus fever in the over crowded and ill-ventilated hold of a ship never intended for the transport of any great number of people."

Donald continues: "For some time everything went on well, with only one incident to break the dull monotony of a voyage on the Atlantic. On the evening of the second day after leaving Stromness, we sighted a large American privateer steering across our course and towing a small schooner which she had captured in the North Sea. On seeing our fleet the privateer cast off her prize, spread her canvass and steered south-west before the wind, which blew freshly at the time. The Brazen gave chase and recaptured the prize. Some time was lost by the Brazen, while putting some of her men on board the schooner, to navigate her into some British port. After this delay, the chase was resumed and continued during the night, but daylight convinced the British captain that he had been pursuing in vain for the privateer was nowhere to be seen. In the afternoon of the second day the Brazen rejoined the vessels under her protection. After this stirring affair all things held 'the even tenor of their way' until we arrived in the vicinity of Greenland. Here we began to feel the chilling effects of these wonderful accumulations of ice and frozen snow, commonly called ice-bergs."

Donald goes on to describe the pack ice they met when they entered the Hudson Straits--"Our progress through the straits was slow and difficult, the ice being unusually heavy and compact". It was here those on board the Eddystone learned that typhus fever had appeared "with fatal effects" among the colonists on board the Prince of Wales--some had died and others were terribly ill. Once they entered the Bay they found open water with only a small amount of floating ice. He goes on to say: "Having arrived at the point where the Hon. Company's ships part with each other, all the servants intended for the northern department were embarked on His Majesty's sloop of war, which, in company with the Prince of Wales, steered her

course for Churchill River. Our passage across the Bay was quick and pleasant, and about noon on the 12th day of August,1813, we beheld the low and uninteresting shores of Hudson's Bay stretched before us, presenting its narrow border of yellow sand and dark blue swamp in the front, with its dark and dismal looking line of spruce and tamarack in the background. The scenery appeared bleak and desolate beyond the power of description. In a few hours, after we had seen the land, we were passing up the river between Cape Merry on our left, and Esquimaux Point terminating the low narrow slip of granite formation on our right, on which Fort Prince of Wales once stood. The Churchill River at this point is very narrow and deep."

On the afternoon of the 13th of August 1813 they were taken higher up the river to the new Fort. However they were left on the bare rocks without any shelter and were not admitted into the Fort. Four or five days after landing the HBC men were put on boats and headed for York Factory which was at the time headquarters of the Northern Department. They went along the coast and after three or four days reached Broad Rivers. During the night a severe windstorm blew up that continued into the second day. The boats contained many men unused to the country so the commander decided, as rations were low, to send forty of the party overland to York Factory under the guidance of a man who had been in the country some years before. Unfortunately it turned out he knew very little about the route.

The first day they travelled on ridges of sand and gravel but the second day their guide, in the afternoon, led them into a swamp with water knee deep. Donald says: "the surface at every step yielding under us, rendering our travelling not only slow, but extremely fatigueing; however, as the sun was going down, chance or good fortune, brought us to a dry ridge where we passed the night. On the third day, at an early hour, we despatched our meal, and to our dismay, found that we had finished the last of our food. York Factory, to which we were travelling, and the only place where our wants could be supplied, was forty or fifty miles distant with the broad and rapid Nelson River to cross. Notwithstanding the difficulties which lay in our way, being all young and hearty men, we scorned to complain or show any signs of weakness.

We had the good fortune to keep out of the swamps and had fine dry ground to travel on all day; and in the evening we arrived at Sam's Creek, where we found a shanty, built for the accommodation of a few men who were sent there from York Factory in the spring and fall of the year, for the management of the goose hunt. But when we arrived there, there were neither Indians, white men or geese, and for want of anything better to sup on, we gathered a few nettle leaves, boiled them in water, ate, and went to rest."

Donald continues his description of his journey from Broad Rivers to York Factory: "The following morning we went

a few miles up along the River, gathered piles of pine brush, to which we set fire, to let those at the Factory know that parties were waiting to be ferried over. The weather was fine, and we had plenty of dry wood for fuel, so that we did not feel our want of food as much as we would undoubtedly have done under less favourable circumstances. On observing the columns of smoke that rose from the heaps of wood and brush that we set on fire, some boats were sent to our relief, and about noon of the fifth day of our training for the Hon. Company's service, the boats came to us, and in a few hours we were landed on the east side of the Nelson.

Five miles had to be travelled over before we reached the Factory. The path was a very miry and unpleasant one, but in the evening we arrived, all safe with very keen appetites, at the great emporium of the fur trade in the northern department of Rupert's Land. Here we were supplied with food, but, most unaccountably, there were no houses in the place to afford us lodgings, and in consequence we had to bivouac on the river bank before the Fort. Our companions whom we left in the boat were not many days behind us, and soon after their arrival we were dispersed over the whole country, many of us no more to meet in this world."

Chapter Three - Donald Gunn in Canada

CHAPTER THREE

DONALD GUNN IN CANADA

This was Donald Gunn's first encounter with the country that would be his home for the next sixty-five years. The country in which he would become first of all a labourer and then an assistant trader for the Company that brought him to this land and the country that would see him devote much of his life to it's development after he settled at the Red River.

He was at one time Postmaster and Inspector of Fisheries and member of the Provisional Assembly in 1869. He was interested in the world around him and was corresponding and contributing Member of the Smithsonian Institution. He was one of their earliest meteorological observers and for more than 20 years a constant contributor of information and collections relating to the natural history of the Northwest. In 1867 he made a special exploration trip for the Institute to the region west of Lake Winnipeg. His account of his trip was published in their Annual Report for 1867.

Donald Gunn's later years were also spent in gathering his notes and in writing his History of Manitoba. He wrote in length on the early history of the Red River settlement and the hardships that the early settlers had to endure. It was perhaps his memories of the hardships endured by the early settlers who had come from Scotland in 1813 and were put ashore at Churchill rather than further down the coast at York Factory that led to his criticism of the Hudson's Bay Company in his writings. He also probably resented having to leave the 'trade' when staff were reduced with the amalgamation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. Whatever the cause, numerous writers have made mention of that criticism.

Isabel Elizabeth Henderson, writing in The Canadian Magazine of April 1922 on Donald Gunn and his History of Manitoba, perhaps is overly critical, but nonetheless correct. She said "There are times when even the casual reader is tempted to compare Mr. Gunn to the Irishman whose motto was to hit a head wherever he saw one. Lord Selkirk and his agents, the Hudson's Bay Company, the Northwest Company, the Canadian Government, the Church of England--each in turn receives a smart rap. But at this date we can easily gauge the justice of such criticism and it is only fair to explain that Mr. Gunn died before his task was finished. Had he lived it is probable that he would have revised the History and left it free of some of the faults that mar it." As Charles R. Tuttle said in 1880 when he published History of Manitoba by Gunn and Tuttle: "That part of the work written by the late Hon. Donald Gunn, is presented without any material alterations in the manuscript prepared by him."

We can only wish that Donald Gunn had written more on his own personal experiences during his long and varied life in what was to become Manitoba. We do know from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives that he served from 1813 to 1816 as a Labourer for the Company in the York District and was at the Post at Severn. From 1816 until he left the employ of the HBC in 1823 he was listed as an Assistant Trader serving at Trout Lake, Winisk River and Severn. He was also at Oxford House.

In his History of Manitoba Donald describes the day when the settlers finally left their homes for Canada "The sad day, so long anticipated, had dawned when they were to leave forever their brown heaths, their deep glens, and lovely green straths with their sweet streams, where in their youth they loved to lave. It has been said, and said I believe with truth, that no people in Europe can compare in deep heart-felt attachment to their native land with the Highlanders of Scotland." So it is probably no wonder that the HBC records show Donald Gunn in 1814-15 as "dark brown hair, strong, well made, desires to return home." How the teenager must have missed the "hills of home".

In 1819 Donald married Margaret Swain, born 02 April 1802, the eldest daughter of James Swain, the officer in charge of the York district. James Swain came from the Parish of St. Andrews, London, England and had joined the Hudson's Bay Company in 1791 as a Writer, as did, in 1795, his younger brother, Thomas. James was born in the 1770's asnd died before 1849. His wife was a native women.

In the "Sketch of the life of the late Hon. Donald Gunn" written by Frank Larned Hunt as an introduction to Gunn and Tuttle's History of Manitoba we learn a bit more about Donald. Frank Larned Hunt, a lawyer from Detroit, had married Donald's grandaughter Henrietta. She was the only child of William Gunn and Isabella Ross.

Frank Hunt says: "The life of a 'Company man'-in the phrase of the country-is either fraught with incident or entirely uneventful, being simply a matter of locality. The Severn District, abutting upon 'the Bay', in which Mr. Gunn passed his ten years of service, was the natural stronghold of the Hudson's Bay men, peopled by peaceful, inoffensive Indians, and productive of no marked event, while at the same time the plains to the west were, with the Red River country, the theatre of a warfare so fatal to the contestants as to impel the coalition of the great rivals, the North-West Company being merged into that of the Hudson's Bay in the year 1821.

But the time, to a man of Mr. Gunn's energetic character, and thirst of knowledge, was not-if barren of event-unprofitably spent. His vicinity to the great depot of the north, and his early promotion to the position of a lesser postmaster, threw him continually into the society of the leading men of the Company,

from whose conversation he derived a great store of exact information touching the past and contemporaneous history of the great governing Corporation. He was also enabled to acquire, by loan or purchase, books, and the digest of his acquisitions at this period, as shown in conversation and reminiscences in after years, was of singular fullness and value. An immense amount of local and character detail of the most unique and interesting description has, by his decease, been forever lost to the lesser records of our colonial history, a loss as great to us in the future as would have been the early destruction of 'Pepy's Diary' to the English people."

After mentioning Donald's marriage, Frank Hunt continues: "That the newly married couple were in no danger of being at the time of their marriage enervated by luxury, Mr. Gunn would, with a keen recollection of the time and their freedom from care and grief, amusingly relate. In addition to the usual allowance of small stores, their outfit of meats and breadstuffs was more suggestive than real, consisting of a flint trade gun, ammunition, and twine for nets. The hardship was but in seeming, game and fish abounded....A deprivation more felt was at times when in recent possession of a treasured book, to be without candles or oil, when thinly split pitch pine fagots would light up the house."

Frank Hunt continues: "It being found inexpedient by the Hudson's Bay Company after the absorption of the North-West, to maintain so large a force as the united employees of the late Company and its own, certain reductions were determined upon, and Mr. Gunn gladly availed himself of the opportunity to retire. With his wife and newly born son, he followed his old friends, the 'Selkirk Settlers', to the Red River, settling in what is now the Parish of St. Andrews, but, which he and a few friends of certainly ambitious loyalty for the time, named 'Little Britain'.

The locality chosen, however, proved to be a good one, and drew about it a more than usually intelligent class of 'freemen', as the retired servants of the Company were called; among them Mr. William Smith, an English worthy full of strong, honest points, one of the most genial and humorous of men, who had also married a daughter of Mr. Swain (Note: Mary Ann, born 1805 died 1851), and was after appointed Secretary to the Council of Assiniboia and Clerk of the Local Courts, an office which he held until his death.

Happily for the new farmers, these were the halcyon days of the hunters. Buffalo were near and plenty, the net was ever in the water, sturgeon and 'gold eyes' daily fare. Without ploughs, tools or cattle, their first attempts at agriculture were of the rudest description: putting down wheat with a hoe, the quantity of seed is not hard to surmise, yet from such a beginning ere many years-aided by his stout sons-a spacious stone house with ample stabling for the large stock of horses and horned animals, and abundant grain, made the homestead of Donald Gunn one of the

foremost in the entire settlement, one of whose abundance made glad many a luckless soul.

After an interval of ten years spent in active farming, Mr. Gunn found himself, by the increasing size and usefulness of his large family so relieved from personal attention to the farm, that he was enabled to take charge of the Parish School established, and, with the exception of the very slight contributions of the parents, supported by the Mission Society of the English Church. This task was one so congenial to his taste, that, fortunately for the youth of both sexes in his charge, it was continued without intermission by him for the long period of eighteen years. When later, made custodian and librarian in his own house of the only public collection of books in the country, he was fairly environed with satisfaction, each tome a silent friend."

The Red River library had been founded in 1847 and was enriched by Peter Fidler's collection of books. The noted surveyor died in 1822 and in his will said: "All my printed books amounting to about 500 volumes, all my printed maps, 2 sets of 12 inch globes, a large achromatic telescope, Wilson's microscope, a brass sextant by Blunt, a Barometer and all the thermometers, all these I give and bequeath to the Governor of the Red River Colony in trust for the general benefit of the said colony, but none of the things to be lent out of the Government House of the said Colony. These things are for the general good of all those Colonists settled in the lands of the Earl of Selkirk in Ossinboia". (Note: the spelling seemed to vary in the early days with both Ossinboia and Assinboia being used). Evidently it was decided that at least some of the books would be made available to the settlers right in the Settlement rather than being kept in Government House.

Frank Hunt goes on to decribe how Donald Gunn and the rest of the settlers began to take an interest in politics. The governmental structure affecting them was both primitive and paternal without any elected representation on their behalf. He says: "The Council of Assiniboia, the members of which were composed of leading English and French settlers, the Recorder or Judge of the Court, the Sheriff and all officers connected in any way with the simple machinery of the Government, were appointees of the Hudson's Bay Company. The settlers were in fact without any representation or weight whatever, a strange anomaly under the British constitution. But, if the anomaly was strange, the circumstances which begot it were more so. The presence of the settlers was due to the action of a great controlling member of the Hudson's Bay Company....

To grant the settlers representation and then limit or nullify their legislative action would be idle. Both the settlers and the Company were right in the positions they assumed; the one to desire and insist on responsible government;

the other to guard their immunities and privileges at all points."

Frank Hunt goes on to describe Donald Gunn's political activity: "Mr. Gunn, who took a leading part in all movements tending to establish a responsible Government in the country- drafting petitions to the Imperial and Canadian Parliaments, presiding at the numerous meetings called for discussion of the theme, one looking forward to the formation of either a Colonial Government under the Crown, or adoption and recognition by Canada.

By his frank utterance and open effort he certainly sacrificed all chance of a seat in the Council of Assiniboia, at that time an object of laudable ambition to the leading men in the settlement, but lived to know that the agitation was not without fruit; it, conjointly with the establishment of a press by Mr. Caldwell, directing attention to the country and hastening the negotiations which ended in the purchase of the Company's rights in the vast domain over which they had so long held undisputed sway. Certainly the most strenuous ambition or pronounced capacity found but meagre scope in the days of which we write, but, both by the old and new regime Mr. Gunn's service was sought to fill various local positions of trust; he being from a very early day joined in the magistracy, presiding as President of the Court of Petty Sessions in his District, and was after appointed Police Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for the Province, Postmaster and Inspector of Fisheries.

These positions are mentioned as showing mainly the unbroken confidence extending over a long lapse of years felt by all classes in the integrity and ability of Mr. Gunn, who, upon the formation of the new Government, waiving his just claims to the representation of his District in the Dominion Parliament as too remote and arduous a task for one of his now advanced years, accepted a seat in the Legislative Council or Upper House of the Manitoba Assembly, which he held until its discontinuance as a public body some five years later, (Note: 1871-1876) voting unhesitatingly himself for its abolition when convinced that its slight function was alike unneeded and an unnecessary stress upon the slender resources of the new Province.

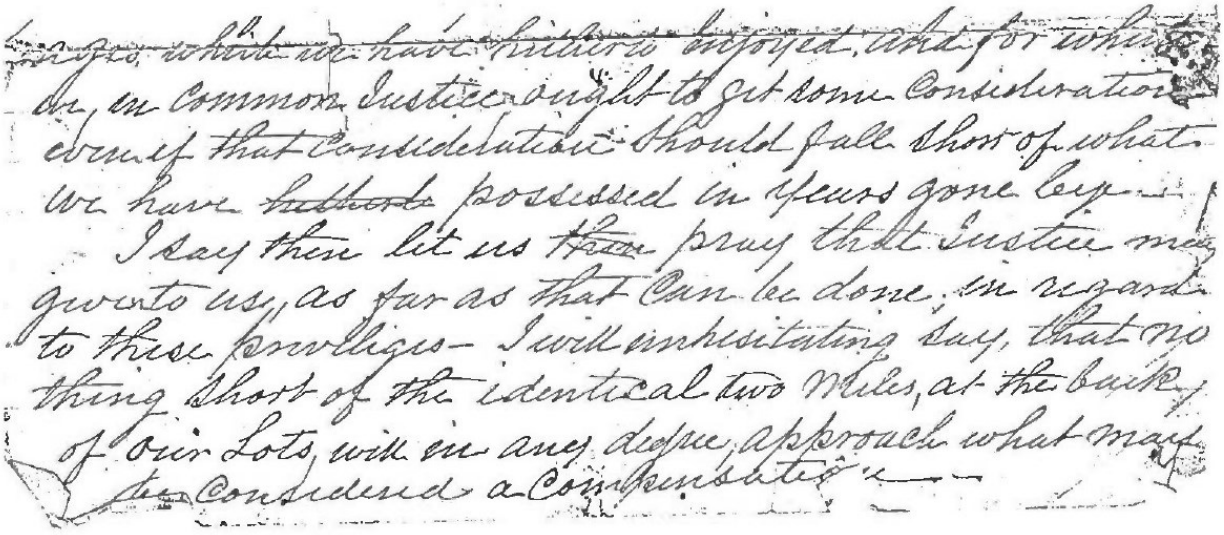
During what is popularly known as the 'Red River troubles' Mr. Gunn had a somewhat unexpected and undesired experience in legislation, being chosen a member to the Provisional Assembly, organized during the winter of the armed resistance to the entry of Hon. Mr. Macdougall, and the arrival of the troops in the spring...Mr. Gunn, who had been one of the most pronounced and active friends of the incoming government, only yielded to the urgent entreaties of the people of St. Andrews to appear as their delegate, in the hope that such joint action on the part of the English and French delegates might be had as would allay the present alarm, and provide a peaceful solution to questions that momentarily threatened collision between these isolated and

The two Mile Pasturage

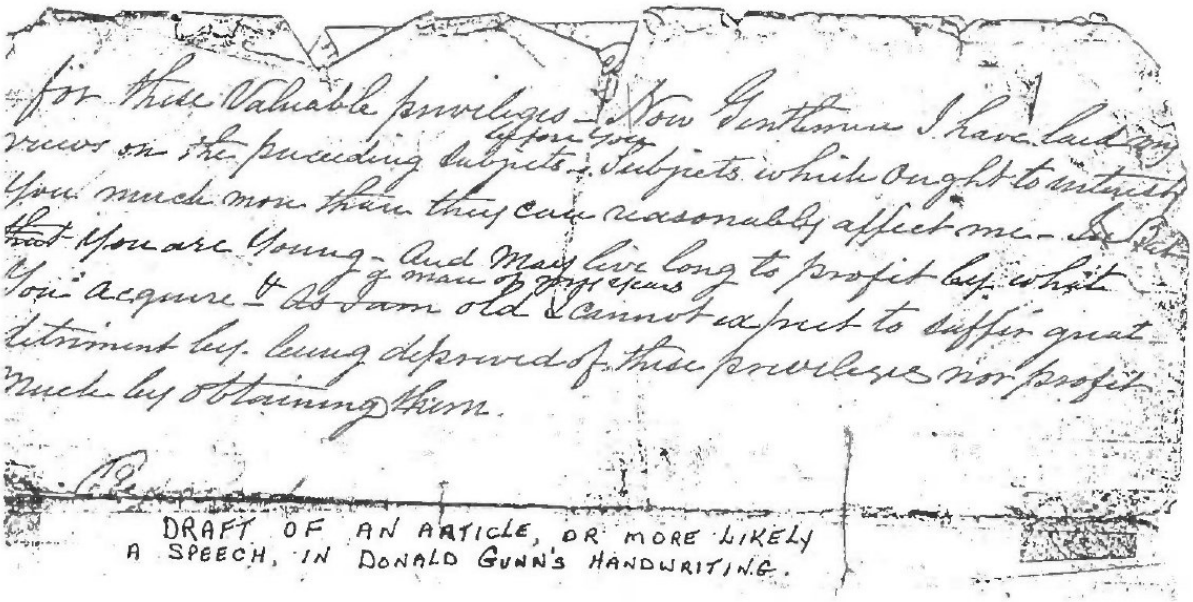
1772.

Gentlemen

I beg to bring before this Meeting a subject that concerns us individually and collectively – A subject in which we ought one and all take the deepest Interest – and this subject is no other than the Pasturages which we have hitherto enjoyed – Let Then let me turn your attention to what is known as the Hay Pasturage Privileges – Pasturages which the Settlers have enjoyed from the Commencement of the Colony (a period of 60 Years) A right without which no man would have purchased and settled on any of the Narrow lots bringing the River – Lots bought at an Exorbitant price – The Cheapest being at 4/6 per Acre and ranging from that figure to 12/6 per Acre – Fancy who would give such high price for land put off in such Miserable small strips as all the old lots are, unless they without something to fall back on. and that something they had – Not Pasturage / right of Hay Cutting and pasturage on all the unoccupied land in rear of their lots to an Extent their Cattle Might wander during the whole Year round – The true extent of our Privileges so far as Hay and pasture are concerned – And to these I may add that we have had a very Valuable Privilege Viz that of taking Fire-wood and Timber for building purposes from the surrounding Forests and for which we have hitherto enjoyed, and for which we hear of no Compensation for those great advantages which we have hitherto enjoyed, and for which we on Common Justice ought to get some Consideration even if that Consideration should fall short of what



Privileges which we have hitherto enjoyed, and for which
in common Justice ought to get some Consideration
even if that Consideration should fall short of what
we have hitherto possessed in years gone by.
I say then let us pray that Justice may
grant to us, as far as that can be done, in regards
to these privileges - I will unhesitating say, that no
thing short of the identical two Miles, at the back
of our Lots, will in any degree approach what may
be Considered a Compensation -



for these Valuable privileges - Now Gentlemen I have had my
views on the preceding Subjects upon you
you much more than they can reasonably affect me - As I
that you are Young - And may live long to profit by what
You acquire & as I am old & cannot expect to suffer great
detriment by being deprived of these privileges nor profit
much by obtaining them.

DRAFT OF AN ARTICLE, OR MORE LIKELY A SPEECH, IN DONALD GUNN'S HANDWRITING.

kindred peoples.....the joint assemblage of the two races, not only recalled their former unity, but diverting the action of the ruling party from appearance of secrecy and surprise, gave confidence and tranquility to this widely-spread and, for the first time, divided community."

In the sketch of Donald Gunn Frank Hunt mentions the spacious stone farmhouse as always being the hospitable home welcoming visitors from near and far..."the stranger found not only the warmth of a home, but an intelligence which threw light on all detail of purposed travel and entered into and discussed every theme of scientific research".

Among the visitors was the ornithologist Robert Kennicott, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. His visit led to Donald being appointed as correspondent and contributing member to that institution. Frank Hunt quotes some of the tributes paid to Donald Gunn when his death became known to the Smithsonian.. "Among those to be first mentioned is Mr. Donald Gunn, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a veteran correspondent of the Smithsonian Institution, one of the earliest of its meteorological observers, and one who for more than twenty years has been a constant contributor of information and collections relating to the natural history of the North-West...The first connection of Mr. Gunn with the Smithsonian Institute was that of a meteorological observer. His long continued observations of the weather were among the most reliable of those within its archives.

His contributions of objects of natural history were still more important, embracing, as they did, nearly every branch in the various classes of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and numerous collections in archaeology and ethnology. Few reports of the Institution since 1850 are without some reference to his services. In 1866 he made a special exploration, on behalf of the Institution, of the region west of Lake Winnipeg, spending considerable time in the vicinity of Shoal Lake and Lake Manitoba, in the course of which he collected large numbers of skins and eggs of birds; among the latter, several previously entirely unknown in museums. Within a year correspondence was in progress with him in regard to the renewal of this exploration."

That some of his neighbours thought he was merely wasting his time is hinted at by Frank Hunt when he talks of preserving specimens in alcohol and it being condemned strongly by the 'drauthy souls' as a 'waste of whuskey' and on exploring quarries and the limestone outcrop on the river for fossils, and his honest neighbours looking askance at this and being moved to say; 'Eh Mon! were he but looking for gold now'. He was, but of a kind not found in the shining sand."

In a letter from Donald to Spencer Baird at the Smithsonian dated 20 Febuary 1856 he tells him that at the Red River the Hudson's Bay Company has a monopoly on spirits and that with

"alcohol fourteen shillings sterling per liquid pound, common rum twenty shillings per gallon" he would preserve any specimens of Mice he got in rum.

The marriage of Donald and Margaret was 'a la pays' ("according to the custom of the country") in 1819 but on the 17th January 1826 at St. John's, Image Plains, Red River Settlement, the marriage was formalized and Margaret was also baptised. They would share a life together for more than fifty years until Margaret's death on 28th November 1870. In that time they had twelve children, ten of whom survived the rigors of frontier life to grow up, marry and have families of their own. The children born to Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain were:

1. William	born 1820	7. Jane	born 1835
2. James	" 1824	8. Margaret	born 1838
3. John	" 1826	9. Donald	" 1840
4. Alexander	" 1829	10. Robert	" 1842
5. Mathilda	" 1831	11. Janet	" 1846
6. George	" 1833	12. William	" 1848

Only Jane, who died in 1844, and Robert, who died in 1843, died while young children. Most of the others lived into their seventies and eighties. Of the adult children only William, the first born, died at an early age. He was only 22 when he died in 1842. To keep Donald's father's name in the family, Donald and Margaret named their last child, born in 1848, after his grandfather William in Scotland.

Of Donald Gunn's life at Red River we have no day by day account but he, and his family, are mentioned in various sources so that we may fit together at least some idea of where, and how, they lived.

A grandson of Donald's, George H. Gunn (John's son), interviewed his aunt Janet (Gunn) Muckle on 20 November 1925 and she told him that Donald settled in 1823 at Netley Creek. She went on to say "He lived there the winter of 1823-24. James was born there 10 January 1824". George goes on "The probability is that he came on to Red River Settlement in 1824 and took up the homestead on the east side of the river that summer. It is probable that John, the 3rd son, was born there. Likely Alex also. It is not likely he lived on the east side more than two or three years. He then moved across to the west side."

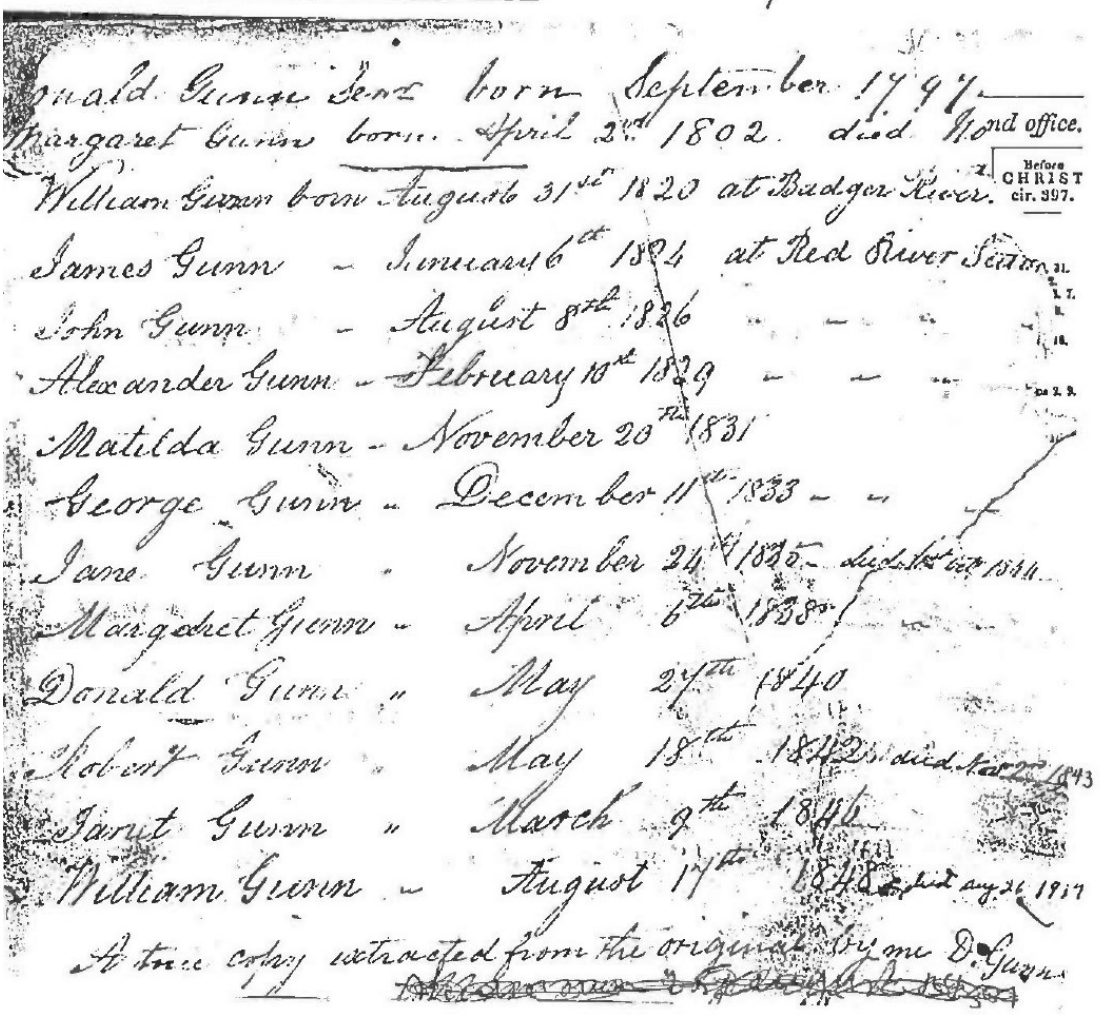
Quoting from the Red River Settlement Census George H. Gunn gives us this information:

In 1843 Donald is shown as (born in) Scotland, Protestant, Age 46, 9 children, 62 head stock, 20 acres cultivated land.

In 1846 he is 49, 8 children, 1 house, 4 stables, 2 barns, 88 head stock and 26 acres cultivated.

In 1849 he is put down as 51, 9 children, 26 acres land, shop of merchandise and a windmill.

DONALD GUNN'S ENTRIES IN HIS FAMILY BIBLE



Donald Gunn Senr born September 1797
Margaret Gunn born April 2nd 1802 died
William Gunn born August 31st 1820 at Badger River.
James Gunn - January 6th 1824 at Red River Settlement
John Gunn - August 8th 1826 - -
Alexander Gunn - February 18th 1829 - -
Matilda Gunn - November 20th 1831
George Gunn - December 11th 1833 - -
Jane Gunn - November 24th 1835 - died Oct 1844
Margaret Gunn - April 6th 1838 - -
Donald Gunn " May 27th 1840
Robert Gunn " May 18th 1842 died March 1843
Janet Gunn " March 9th 1846
William Gunn - August 17th 1848 - died Aug 26 1917

A true copy extracted from the original by me D. Gunn

FROM AMY JOHNSTONE, SHAUNAVON, SASK.

George Gunn's notebook in the Winnipeg Archives also says that on pages 29-32 of St. Andrews Register of Burials for 1835 to 1869 the name of Donald Gunn appears as conducting 26 funerals and is designated as "schoolmaster". The first entry is 21 July 1846 and the last 11 September 1846. Apparently they were without a minister as Mr. Cochran was just leaving and Mr. Jones just coming.

Getting back to his interview with Janet Muckle he says: "Mrs. Muckle gives it as her opinion that the Red River library which was in her father's house, was all originally located in the home of William Robert Smith at Middlechurch (a brother-in-law of Donald's), and that from there it came to Donald Gunn's. Many notable men visiting Red River were guests at the Gunn homestead. The late Consul Taylor stayed there for a month on his arrival. Robert Kennicott also stayed there for three weeks. Another noted guest was Samuel H. Scudder. At one time a party composed of three scientists from the Smithsonian-Newcombe, Tyrrel and McAllister, on their way to view an eclipse of the sun at Cumberland, stayed there. Also in 1862 or 1863, Edward Eggleston was there with a party of naturalists."

George continues in his notebook: "Mrs. Muckle states that her father made a tour to the Lake of the Woods to explore the Dawson Route long before the Dawson road was put through. He had Joseph Monkman as guide. The trip was made in a Red River cart with a big Clyde mare 'Moldy', belonging to Donald Gunn. Monkman was the guide also on his expedition to Lake Manitoba in search of specimens for the Smithsonian Institute."

In the book "Women of the Red River" Janet Muckle talks about her parent's home. She said "In the largest room in my father's house Dr. John Black used to hold a weekly church service for the people down the river. That room was used also as a Sunday School. My father for several years carried on in that same room a commercial school, to fit young men for the service of the Company. In that room too was housed the Red River Library, of which my father was the last librarian. It was a large stone house. The living room which was used for the many different purposes which I have just mentioned, was on one side of the entrance hall. The dining room was on the opposite side. The kitchen was very large, and there were several bedrooms. The house was heated by Carron stoves."

As mentioned by Janet (Gunn) Muckle, Rev. John Black held services in Donald Gunn's large home. John Black was the first Presbyterian Minister to serve that area. Prior to his arrival many of the Presbyterians had worshipped at St. John's Anglican church. This is the reason for many of the early family marriages, births and deaths being found in the Anglican records.

Little Britain Presbyterian Church came into being in 1853. Although services had been held in Donald's house it became

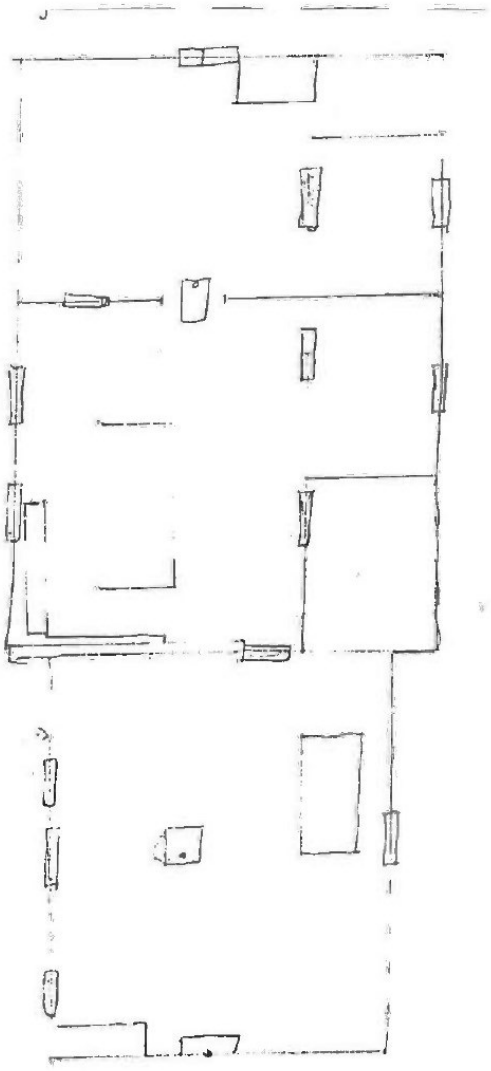


DIAGRAM OF HON. DONALD GUNN'S HOUSE

FROM NOTEBOOK OF GEORGE H. GUNN
DATED 16 MAY 1926 (PROV. ARCHIVES OF MANITOBA)

necessary to build an actual church to accommodate the growing congregation. Just slightly north-west of Donald's large stone house on Lot 109 a church, or "meeting house" as it was called, was built of logs with a thatched roof. Lot 109 was located one quarter of a mile (.4 km) north of the present St. Andrew's lock and dam at Lockport. The meeting house that was built by 1853 served also as a day school.

In 1863 the Hudson's Bay Company donated land closer to the stone fort (Lower Fort Garry) and by 1874 the present Little Britain Church was built. The cemetery surrounding the present church contains the graves of many of the people mentioned in this history, including those of Donald Gunn and his wife Margaret Swain. In a letter presently in the Manitoba Archives, dated 29 June 1870, Donald Gunn requests Mr. Barber of Barber & Co., 45 Market Street, Winnipeg, to send the 2500 Shingles purchased by the Rev. Mr. Black for the Manse at Little Britain down with "my son James who is going with a Cart and horse to your place tomorrow, and offers to bring the said Shingle down". Donald played an active role in Little Britain Church.

The old log Meeting House was given to Donald Gunn and the pews were moved to the new church. In 1933 a cairn was built on the site of the original place of worship. In 1944 while taking training in the Canadian Women's Army Corp (C.W.A.C.) in Winnipeg I went to see Lower Fort Garry. A friend of one of the girls had offered to drive three of us out to the Fort. He stopped at a cairn beside the River Road and we all got out to look at it. What a surprise to find that it mentioned my great grandfather! The plaque on the cairn read:

> "Erected by this community in 1933 to
> commemorate the beginning of worship in
> the old meeting house on this parish lot
> under the Reverend John Black in 1853.
> Inset stone from the house of
> the Hon. Donald Gunn"

The plaque may still exist. It was on the west side of the River Road north of the Lockport locks on a big stone cairn with railing around it. It is now part of a new residental area.

In George H. Gunn's notebook he made the following notations to accompany sketches he had made: "Statistics of Donald Gunn's buildings. May 16, 1926. Today I examined the site of these buildings and found the foundations of all of them very plainly defined. By stepping or pacing I found the various dimensions to be as follows-" and he goes on to describe, as well as the house, the building used as the Church or, as he says, "Old Meeting House was 32 feet North of north end of kitchen. It was 32 feet North and South and 22 feet East and West. The east wall of it was practically in line with the east wall of main log house.

DONALD GUNN
1797-1878

CAIRN NEAR LOCKPORT 20 MAY 1944

Stable was about 50 feet in rear opposite kitchen and in the same line or parallel."

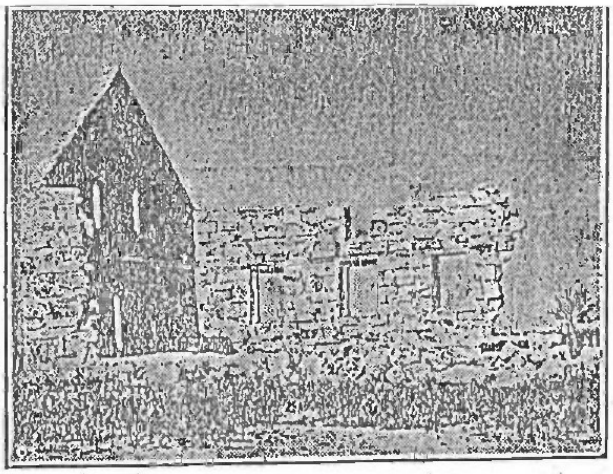
It would appear that Donald Gunn built a large stone house fairly early on in his life at Red River as there are many references to it. However, later on it seems the family lived in a large log house while Donald was in the process of building another stone house sometime in the early 1870's. He did not finish it. It had a roof, partitions for rooms, lath ready for the plaster, but no doors when he died in 1878. It was never finished.

George H Gunn described the site of the house as follows: "The stone house (still standing in 1926) 27 x 38 feet facing East and West--45 feet South of log dwelling. Main part of log dwelling, 32 x 22 feet. Line of West wall of stone house (Note: next word too faint to read)) log dwelling about 13 feet from West wall. Kitchen of log house about 20 x 18 feet, being two feet or three feet narrower than main part, front walls apparently being in line."

Frank Larned Hunt having close contact with Donald Gunn gives us one of the few personal descriptions of the nature of the man: "The personal characteristics of Mr. Gunn was of the most engaging character. In an intercourse of nearly twenty years we fail to recall other than the most genial and unaffected cordiality to all; superadded to this, his varied powers of conversation, replete with valuable matter gathered from all sources, his sense of humor lighting up old Gaelic lore, the traditions of the Viking race from whom he sprung, the rough adventures and eccentricities of the hero worthies of 'the trade', the early and chequered life in the settlement, with a vein of grounded culture running through all, made him to be one of the most companionable and instructive of men."

He continues: "An elder in the Kirk for many years, Mr. Gunn's liberality of thought--in this direction--would have been marked were it not for the general charity and largest tolerance universal in the country. The three churches, English, French and Scotch, resting in close and harmonious vicinage. Latterly, when he had retired mainly from public affairs, nearly all of Mr. Gunn's time was occupied in the preparation of this history... Towards the close of his life, his sight failing him, it was his greatest pleasure to have some one read aloud to him from his favorite authors, his mind retaining its force and clearness until a few hours before his death. This occurred on the last day of November, 1878, in his own house, surrounded by his family, the parting being so peaceful as to be literally falling asleep."

Frank Larned Hunt concludes his sketch with the following: "In tracing the career of Donald Gunn from his boyhood, on the Strath of Braeholme to the close, and setting forth the detail of



"THE RUIN," LOCKPORT

Stories Houses Tell

By LILLIAN GIBBONS

"I WONDER who lived there," muse people who motor through Lockport and look up at the ruin on the hill. Great stone walls stand gaunt and lonely against the sky. Three hollow eyes of windows look dully to the north. No roof is in place to keep out the winter's snow. Around the property, adding to the desolation, is a double barbed wire fence...discouraging trespassers. No wonder stories of the "haunted house" are current.

But the Gunn family says there is no mystery to the house; it was just never finished, because the youngest son of the family, to whom it was left, apparently didn't feel the need of a large stone house. Gradually the years ate into it. There was a roof once, and partitions, and lath ready for the plaster. But the plasterer never came.

Hon. Donald Gunn was building the house when he died in 1878, says his grandson, Mr. George H. Gunn, of Lockport. "The house I remember was his big log house, just to the north of the ruin."

And if ever a house, even an unfinished ruin now, had a builder to be proud of, it's this one.

Writes First History of Manitoba

Donald Gunn wrote the first history of Manitoba, "from the earliest settlement to 1835," and his friend, Charles R. Tuttle brought it up to 1870 and published it under the title of Gunn and Tuttle. The preface to this old history, now out of print, is an account of Mr. Gunn himself by F.L.H., "Frank L. Hunt, a lawyer who spent the winter of the rebellion with my grandfather," says George H. Gunn.

Donald Gunn was no less a personage than Manitoba's first weather man. As a correspondent of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington city, he made meteorological observations, "some of the most reliable ever made," complimented the Institute when their correspondent passed away on St. Andrew's night, 1878, "peacefully, in his own house, literally falling asleep."

It was all through Mr. Gunn's hospitable nature that he came to be a learned correspondent of the Smithsonian Institute. His large stone farm house, says the comment-writer, was open to all travellers "whether the purposeless tourist or the wandering Savant." One of the latter was "Mr. Kennicott," from the Washington Institute.

Came With Selkirk Settlers

Remarkable things abound in Mr. Gunn's life: To begin with he came out with the 1813 party of Selkirk settlers, though he was not of them, but on apprentice of the Company. A lad of 16 he was, through now with his boyhood days on the "strath of Bracholme" Halkirk, come to do a man's work in the fur trade at York Factory. In 1819, he was getting along well enough to marry young Margaret Swain. Their housekeeping equipment seems to have consisted of a "flint trade gun, ammunition, and twine for nets." Using the gun and the nets, they might then procure game, and fish for their larder. Candles and oil were scarce, too, for "thinly split pitch pine fagots" lit the log house for the great treat of reading a book, writes Mr. Hunt.

After 1821, when the rival companies amalgamated, Donald Gunn left the trade, settled at a point in the Parish of St. Andrew's which he and a few friends agreed patriotically to call "Little Britain." Ten years as a farmer made Donald Gunn prosperous. Then for 18 years he took charge of the parish school of St. Andrew's. George H. Gunn said "I took the part of the school master at the 107th anniversary of the St. Andrew's school, in the summer of 1931, because I was the schoolmaster's grandson."

A "Meeting House" Stood Here

At the north end of Donald Gunn's property—on the hill where the ruin is now—was a "meeting house," built sometime after 1851, when the first Presbyterian minister, John Black, arrived. That meeting house was used weekdays for a school, where a daughter of the pioneer, Janet Gunn, taught.

"That's what the cairn is for, you know," put in the grandson. The house finder said no plate marked the pile of boulder stones. "Then that's because someone has taken it off," said the Lockport household. The cairn marks the spot where the first Presbyterian services were held in the Little Britain parish.

The schoolmaster days led to one more honor for Donald Gunn: "librarian and custodian of the only public collection of books in the country." Peter Fidler at his death in 1821 left those books to the Red River settlement. Today 110 volumes of that first Manitoba library are in the house on the east side of the river where the grandson lives.

To Legislative Council

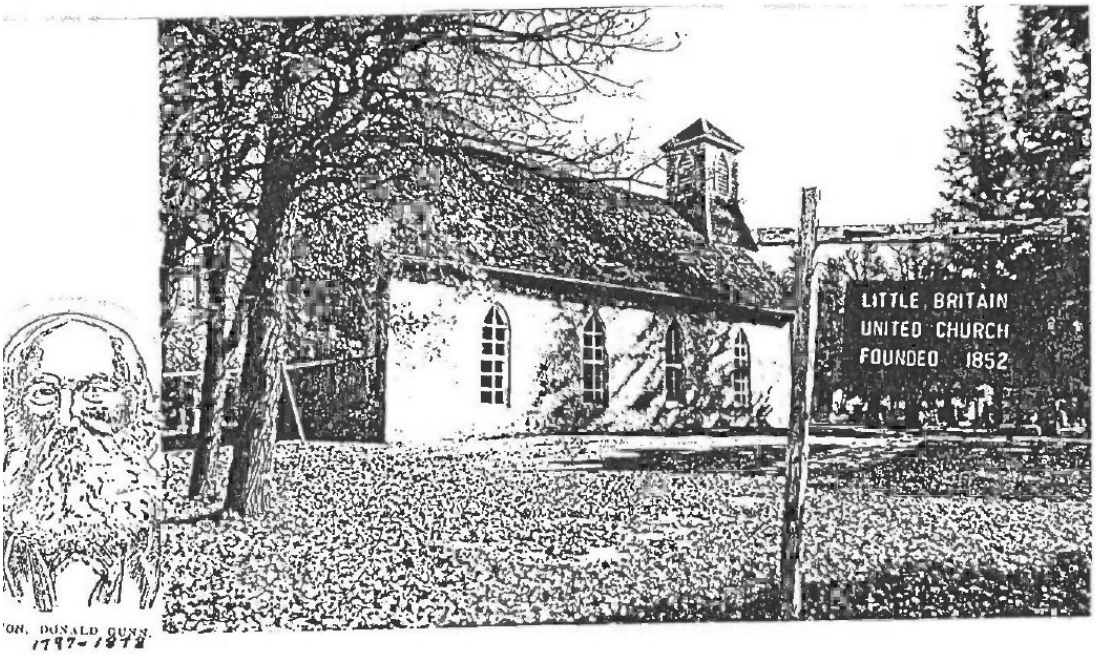
The last honor that came to Donald Gunn was his appointment to the legislative council in Manitoba's first legislature, in 1871, "just about the time he started building the stone house that now lies in ruins." The grandson, who was a little boy at the time, says the house had a roof, partitions for rooms, lath ready for the plaster, but no doors when the builder died in 1878...Now the roof has gone, and lately the stone walls had to be partly demolished because they were unsafe.

But the Gunn house isn't sad at the turn of events: descendants of the family carry on the tradition across the river in "Gunngarioch." The gaunt old ruin can lift up its head and see that house, and rest content.

UNDATED CLIPPING - EARLY 1940's? (LATE 1944 OR 1945) PAGE 21-A

his faithful life, we cannot, knowing him so well, resist the impression that his truest and best success lay not either in public affairs nor ripe attainment, but was garnered under his own roof tree--was most assured in the affectionate devotion and unbroken regard of his friends. In the primitive simplicity and honest warmth of the society of which he was the patriach and head, in the confidence he inspired and the good he was enabled to do, lay his best guerdon. In this sphere he won the merit deserved by so few, for of him it can, of a truth, be said, the world was better in that he had lived."

In the graveyard of Little Britain Church, north of Lockport, Manitoba, headstones mark the resting place of both Margaret and Donald Gunn and many of their descendants. The old church and it's graveyard beside the Red River is a peaceful resting place for many of the families so actively involved in the early history of what is now Western Canada.



ON. DONALD GUNN
1797-1878

Chapter Four - Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain first child William Gunn

CHAPTER FOUR

DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN

FIRST CHILD

WILLIAM GUNN

William Gunn was the first child of Donald and Margaret. He was born 31 August 1820 at Badger River while his father was still in the employ of the HBC and stationed in the north either at Trout Lake Post or Winisk River Post.

The HBC records show Donald as Labourer from 1813 to 1816 in the York District at Severn Post and from 1816 to 1820 as Assistant Trader in the 'Northern Department' at Trout Lake followed by 1820-1821 at Winisk River. He then went back to Severn in 1821-1822 still as an Assistant Trader and in 1822 was listed as freeman when he left the HBC.

William married Isabella Ross on 04 February 1841 at St. John's. She was a daughter of Alexander Ross. They had one daughter Henrietta who was baptised on 19 December 1841. William died in May 1842 and was buried 10 May in St. John's Anglican Churchyard at the Red River settlement. Henrietta married Frank L. Hunt, born in 1835, a lawyer from Detroit, Michigan on 29 November 1860 at Kildonan Church. Her mother Isabella remarried, in November 1845, to an American free-trader by the name of James Green and they had two children, James and Isabella Green.

In a letter that William's brother John wrote to their brother Donald from Gonor, Manitoba, on May 11th, 1893, he said: "Our sister Janet and her husband were up visiting sister Margaret lately....they also visited F.L.Hunt, he is still on the south side of Assiniboine. All well, but not doing much, both Hetta,s children were with him." That is the only mention of Henrietta in any of the letters.

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S 1-1

NAME	WILLIAM GUNN	SPOUSE ISABELLA ROSS	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	31 AUGUST 1820 BADGER RIVER		
Marriage/Place	04 FEBRUARY 1841 ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RED RIVER		
Death/Buried	MAY 1842 ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY		
Occupation			
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses		JAMES GREEN NOVEMBER 1845	
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	ALEXANDER ROSS/SARAH ?	

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	F	HENRIETTA GUNN	BAPTISED 19 DEC 1841	29 NOVEMBER 1860 FRANK L. HUNT	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*****

Henrietta Jane Gunn (and her husband Frank Larned Hunt (1825-1903)) had four children: William Gunn Hunt 1861-1923, Harold Hunt 1863-1869, Winifred Emily Hunt 1865 – 1946 and Ellis Hunt died 1868.The lines of William Gunn Hunt and Winifred Emily Hunt continue in 2025.

Chapter Five - Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain second child James Gunn

CHAPTER FIVE

DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN

SECOND CHILD

JAMES GUNN

The second born of Margaret and Donald was James Gunn, born on 06 January 1824 at Red River Settlement. He was known in the family as Jamie, sometimes Jimmie. He married Mary Donald, born 12 June 1825, daughter of William Donald, and they lived in the parish of St. Andrew on lot 116. They had two daughters, Marguerite Gunn born 1863 and Mary Ann Gunn born 29 October 1864.(Note: some sources list only one daughter, Mary Ann, and have her listed as marrying James Young on 01 December 1883 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Red River).

On 31st December 1893 Janet Muckle wrote to her brother Donald: "I saw Jamie's Maggie in Selkirk last week, looking so well dressed and happy. Her husband is at the Lunatic Asylum as keeper, gets $35.00 a month with food and clothing. Maggie lives at her fathers with her three children and Jamie goes up when off duty which is pretty often." It would seem that 'Marguerite' may have also been 'Mary Ann's' name. B.McKenzie Gunn (Alexander's son) wrote to his Uncle Donald in 1903 that "I have not seen Uncle Jimmie for about four months but when I was at my mothers last week I was told that he was quite well and could smoke as well as ever." James died January 1905.

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S 1-2

NAME	JAMES GUNN	SPOUSE MARY DONALD	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	06 JANUARY 1824 R.R.S.	12 JUNE 1825 R.R. SETTLEMENT	D.W. LIGHT 1970 GLENBOW-ALBERTA MUSEUM + FAMILY BIBLE FAMILY LETTERS
Marriage/Place			
Death/Buried	27 JANUARY 1905		
Occupation			
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	WILLIAM DONALD/	

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	F	MARY ANN GUNN	29 OCTOBER 1864 ST ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	01 DECEMBER 1883 JAMES YOUNG	
2		KNOWN AS 'MAGGIE' (MARGUERITE?)			
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Chapter Six – Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain third child John Gunn

John was a politician, see the bottom of this page.

JOHN

The third son John, born at Red River on 08 August 1826 and baptised at St. John's Anglican Church on 25 September 1827, married Emma Garrioch, born 24 July 1824, a daughter of William Garrioch. They were married at Kildonan Presbyterian Church on 02 February 1855. They lived on lot 165 in the parish of St. Andrew's at the 1870 census. Their home was on the east side of the Red River where the locks are now.

John and Emma had five sons and three daughters. The first child was a girl, Margaret Jane Gunn, born 24 November 1855 and baptised at Kildonan church. She married Joseph William Johnstone on 08 June 1887. They had seven children: Dale John Edward Johnstone; Evangeline (Eva) Caroline (Johnstone) Garrioch; Charles Myron Johnstone; Edith Emma (Johnstone) Ozouf; Amy Margaret (Johnstone) Lloyd; Reginald Joseph Winfield Johnstone and Walter Gilbert Campbell Johnstone. Joe Johnstone died on 20 November 1899.

After the death of John Gunn his sister Janet Muckle wrote to their brother Donald on 9th November 1898: "I saw our brother John's Maggie at Selkirk on Saturday. She said that her father left the place at the creek to her and the place at the River to John, with a request that he keep his mother as long as she lives, and his sisters as long as they were single if they helped to keep things going. Half the cattle and stock to John, the other half to the girls and Gilbert and several chains of land to Gilbert who is going to Manitoba College this winter."

In another letter to her brother Donald from Janet Muckle at Clandeboye, Manitoba, on 29th October 1899 she said "Poor Joe Johnstone is very ill and he is to lose his place by mortgage sale. I hear Reggie mortgaged it long ago." In January 1900 Janet asked Donald if he had heard of Joe Johnstone's death and said "Maggie Jane is left a widow with seven children all under 13. When Minnie goes to you I will take one and keep it for her." Two months later she said that Maggie "has Mary staying with her and is doing very well so far." In 1905 Maggie Jane married her cousin, Kemper Mackenzie Garrioch, of Fairford, Manitoba, a widower with seven children.

In May 1927, Emma Gunn (John's daughter and Maggie Jane's sister) wrote to her cousin Minnie Gunn. In her letter she said: "I've had another great sorrow. My oldest sister M.J. (Mrs. K.M.Garrioch) died on April 21st and was buried in Little Britian

John Gunn, M.L.A. (1826-1898) John Gunn was born on August 8, 1826 at St. Andrew's, the son of Donald Gunn and his Métis wife, Margaret Swain. John was educated by his father. He was a farmer and later worked as a teacher at St. John's Day School from 1845 to 1847. On February 2, 1855, he married Emma Garrioch (1825-1921) at St.John's. She was the fifth daughter of William Garrioch. … John was elected a School Trustee in 1871 and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board from its organization in that year. He was elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the St. Andrews North constituency at the 1874 general election and was re-elected in 1878. He was defeated in each of the 1879 and 1883 elections. He died on January 8, 1898 at Britain on the Red River.
https://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/149160.Gunn,%20William%20Reginald%20(R).pdf

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S 1-3

NAME	JOHN GUNN	SPOUSE	EMMA GARRIOCH
Birth/Place	08 AUGUST 1826 R.R.S.		24 JULY 1824 ST. JOHN'S PARISH, RRS
Marriage/Place	02 FEBRUARY 1855 KILDONAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MANITOBA		
Death/Buried	08 SEPTEMBER 1898 LITTLE BRITAIN		28 FEBRUARY 1922, LITTLE BRITAIN
Occupation	FARMER, POSTMASTER, POLITICIAN		
Religion	PROTESTANT - PRESBYTERIAN		PROTESTANT
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN		WILLIAM GARRIOCH/NANCY COOK

REFERENCES:
RRS - RED RIVER SETTLEMENT
D.W. LIGHT GLENBOW MUSEUM CALGARY, ALBERTA
LISTED (1970) EMMA'S BIRTH AS JULY 20th.
HEADSTONE LITTLE BRITAIN LISTS DEATH AS 1823-1921
ALSO MARRIAGE DATE AS FEBRUARY 14th
HEADSTONE ALSO LISTS JOHN'S AS 1825-1898
FAMILY BIBLE - 1826

	sex	children	birthdate / place	marriage date / spouse's name	death date / place
1	F	MARGARET JANE GUNN	24 NOVEMBER 1855 / ST. ANDREW'S - LOCKPORT, MB.	08 JUNE 1887 - JOSEPH W. JOHNSTONE - 1905 - KEMPER MCKENZIE GARRIOCH	21 APRIL 1927 / ST. BONIFACE HOSPITAL WINNIPEG
2	m	WILLIAM REGINALD GUNN	BAPTISED 05 OCT. 1857 / ST. ANDREW'S -		MELFORT, SASKATCHEWAN
3	m	DONALD GUNN	BAPTISED 30 NOV. 1859 / ST. ANDREW'S	CHRISTINA MATHESON	CALGARY, ALBERTA
4	m	JOHN JAMES GUNN	02 (OR 20) APRIL 1861 / ST. ANDREW'S	29 JANUARY 1905 / ELEANOR FLANNIGAN	22 SEP 1907 / ST. ANDREW'S - EAST SELKIRK
5	F	EMMA GUNN	12 OCTOBER 1862 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	UNMARRIED	05 AUGUST 1950 / SELKIRK HOSPITAL
6	F	MARY GUNN	05 MAY 1864 / ST. ANDREW'S	UNMARRIED	NOVEMBER 1948 / ST. ANDREW'S
7	m	HENRY GEORGE GUNN	14 JANUARY 1866 / ST. ANDREW'S	UNMARRIED	20 DECEMBER 1945 / LOCKPORT, MANITOBA
8	m	GILBERT GARRIOCH GUNN	12 JULY 1868 / ST. ANDREW'S	MARY BALLENTYNE	17 MARCH 1933 / ST. ANDREW'S
9					
10					

Rev. Henry George Gunn 1866-1945

John J. Gunn 1861-1907 (provisionally identified)[2]

[2] These pictures are added by Alastair Gunn.

cemetery on Sunday the 24th. She has been sick off and on for the past few years and whenever she got sick I got her to come home and we always pulled her through. But this time she got very, very sick suddenly and her daughter Mrs. Ozouf brought her to the city and put her in St. Boniface Hospital where she died 24 hours after she went in. It was very sad as nobody, even the doctor, thought she was so bad. Edith (Mrs. Ozouf) came to tell us about it and went back to the hospital the next day at noon to find she had died that night. The nurse said she died in her sleep, but I think she must have choked, for she was asthmatic and when she took any cold she choked. We had a very busy time. We all wanted her buried in Little Britian and from the farm that she always seemed to love. Her family were all here, also her husband. Three sons and three daughters survive and fourteen grandchildren. She was the eldest of our family, 71 years. The next three, Reggie, Donald and John, are all dead and very strange isn't it, they all died suddenly away from home."

The second child of John Gunn and Emma Garrioch was William Reginald Gunn who was born in 1857 and baptised on 05 October 1857 also at Kildonan church. He was one of the first graduates of the University of Manitoba. He was a lawyer who practised in Saskatchewan. He died in Melfort and was buried there. His brother Donald Gunn was born in 1859, baptised on 30 November of that year at Kildonan. He married Christina Matheson. He was an Architect and builder in Calgary where he died. At one time he was an alderman in that city. They had no children.

The fourth child was John James (J.J.) Gunn, born on 21 April 1861.(In the foreword to his book his birthdate is given as 02 April).He married Eleanor Flannigan of Goderich, Ontario on 29 January 1905. She was a teacher and he was a farmer and beekeeper. He was also a writer who wrote "Echoes of the Red", stories of the early days at Red River-Macmillan Company 1930. His wife in the introduction to the book said the home influence, a good library always at hand, influenced his whole life. She went on to say that: "his grandfather, the Honourable Donald Gunn left upon his mind an indelible impression. He saw exemplified in his honourable grandfather what a man may become by self-improvement, so every spare minute was used for study. Though deprived of a college education, he became a well-educated man, conversant with the best English authors from the time of Chaucer. He mastered French too, so that he could read the works of French authors in the original." He apparently also inherited his grandfathers interest in the world around him for she said he had "a minute and practical knowledge of insects, birds and flowers native to Manitoba. He was president of the Western Beekeepers' Association and filled local positions as postmaster and Justice of the Peace." J.J. was killed by his bull on 22 September 1907 on his farm at East Selkirk. He was buried at Little Britain. He was predeceased by his only son who was born in May 1907 and died four days later. (Note: some sources quote 07 September 1907 as his date of death--it would appear that 22nd would be the correct one).

*****

William Reginald Gunn (middle paragraph) 1857 – 1912 is now recognised as the first student to graduate from the University of Manitoba in 1880. He was a Manitoba College student, who took honours in Natural Sciences and was awarded the Governor General's Silver Medal. He was also the only student to receive a degree in that year. See
https://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/149160.Gunn,%20William%20Reginald%20(R).pdf

Glover Oct 26th 1894

My Dear Brother

Your letters of 13 & 14 inst. arrived here on the 21st, I have read them over & over and have not found anything new in their scattered pages, and I would suggest that you get some good ruled papers for future use, as one at my age can take in the meaning of anything I read much better when the matter read is continuous and does not traverse too many subjects, In reference to Miss Birds Meaning when she said that Bird and Sons, represent the family over the water, I can only say that from the first time I read her P.C. I took it to mean, the Palin Fiddler family, and I thought she had adopted that impression from the correspondence she had had with that Firm, if Bird & Sons are representing the Fiddlers in England. it has never been made known, and I cannot think Miss Bird would go from them, as they would be acting against her Colleagues in St Paul, but there is little use paying any more attention. My object in writing you today is to tell you that I wrote Bird and Sons yesterday, and I hope to hear from them sometime, I need not at present tell you what I said to them, but I will let you have their reply, if I get one, as soon as it arrives,

I am happy to be able to tell you we are all as well now when you saw us, last summer, I am still an invalid although I am most of the time on the move, and have been pushing some build pellets all summer, I have only improved pedestrianly, and sometimes fear I will never recover my lost strength & fully, Hoping this will find you all well I am

Your affte Brother John Glover

PAGE 26-A

The fifth and sixth born children of John Gunn and Emma Garrioch were girls. Emma was born on 12 October 1862. She never married and died on 05 August 1950. Her sister Mary Gunn was born on 05 May 1864 and was a Registered Nurse. She too never married.

Henry George Gunn, the seventh child, was born on 14 January 1866. He became a Presbyterian Minister but was also interested in writing. In the Archives in Winnipeg are a number of his notebooks and his typewritten edited version of his grandfather's History of Manitoba. He felt he was making it more readable--his edited version is still in his box of files along with notes on many people he had contacted on Garrioch and Gunn history. He never married.

The youngest child in the John Gunn and Emma Garrioch family was Gilbert Garrioch Gunn who was born on 12 July 1868. He married Mary Ballentyne.

When John Gunn died his brother Donald wrote that he had lost his best correspondent. John Gunn had been educated by his father and was a well read man. The brothers wrote long letters to one another and discussed politics, current events and, fortunately for those of us wanting to know more about our roots, passed on bits of family news. John could not resist giving advice to his younger brothers! In a letter dated 03 April 1893 he writes to his brother Donald that they "have just finished thrashing our small crop of 165 bushels of oats, 56 of wheat and 130 of barley. The oats and barley were grown at the creek and the wheat here. We got the 56 bushels off four acres, which we plowed four times in 1891 to kill thistles and stinking weeds. Getting our thrashing done last week gives us abundance for our stock for spring and summer, after buying some at a cheap rate for winter use."

He continues: "I am so sorry to hear of the scarcity of hay, and of cattle dying in your part, George says the same thing has happened about Gull Lake, and he blames the want of byres and sheds into which the stock could go instead of being compelled to lie down in the snow, where they get wet, and from where they rise up to become frozen, and then die. This was the way the late Mr. McDermot used to do ranching about White Horse Plains about 40 years ago, with precisely the same results, and in fact some people do the same yet, south of the Assiniboine, and they lost lots of cattle there last year." (Note: in his next letter he mentioned McDermot again and said "You are there enduring the losses & misery that old McDermot's stock used to suffer when he expected them to thrive on the branches of trees on the Assiniboine fifty years ago").

John Gunn continues in his letter to his brother Donald dated 03 April 1893: "The country around Battleford has been. and in fact is still, held forth as a great place for cattle living out and foraging for themselves all the year round,

COPIED FROM WINNIPEG TRIBUNE AUGUST 14, 1950.

Emma Gunn, 87, Granddaughter of Historian, Dies.
(Special to the Winnipeg Tribune)

SELKIRK, Aug. 14--The funeral service for Miss Emma Ann Gunn, 87, a pioneer resident of the St. Andrews district, who died August 5 at Selkirk General Hospital, was held Wednesday in Little Britain United Church, Little Britain. Burial was in the family plot in the churchyard cemetery. Langrill's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangement. Rev. J.A.McConnell officiated.

Pall-bearers were William Mowatt, William Waddell, Peter and Stephen Pawluk, Michael Tyramchuk and Stephen Honaluk.

Born at St. Andrews, Miss Gunn had lived all her life in the district. She was the daughter of the late John Gunn and Emma Garrioch, and grand-daughter of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, member of the first legislature in Manitoba and well-known historian.

Miss Gunn attended school at Little Britain, this first school being a commercial school for the children of Hudson's Bay Company officials, where her grandfather taught for 10 years.

She taught Sunday School at Little Britain Presbyterian Church for many years and was a lifelong member of the church, taking an active part in women's organizations until a few years ago.

At one time her family owned property north and south along the Red River at Lockport, while her grandfather, who had come from Caithness, Scotland, owned a considerable stretch of land on the west side of the Red River at Little Britain.

Four brothers predeceased her, Reginald, a lawyer at Prince Albert; John J., who farmed at Lockport, and wrote "Echoes of the Red"; Rev. George Gunn, of Lockport, who did newspaper work and wrote poetry; and Gilbert.

Two sisters, Margaret and Mary, also predeceased her.

She is survived by three nephews, Charles Johnston, Clandeboye; Campbell Johnston, Mafeking; and Dale Johnston, Lockport; and two nieces, Mrs. Harold Ozouf, Clandeboye; and Mrs. Eva Garrioch, Saskatoon.

notwithstanding the fact that the Taylors and others from Poplar Point and other parts of Manitoba, proved long ago such could not be done, and many of them came back sadly disappointed. I enclose herewith a record of Battleford temperature which I got from our brother George which will show you that at least good shelters must be indispensable there, as well as here, and from the temperature of Qu'Appelle which is south of you, I fancy your part is cold enough to call for shelters for stock of all kinds too, and the sooner your neighbours adopt this plan the better it will be, at any rate for the stock, and it might give a chance to compete with the cheap western beef which has glutted the markets both here and in the old country."

In the same letter he wrote he had heard such glowing reports of the southwest country from their brother George at Gull Lake that he was tempted to move there as he says the land around Gonor (their local post office) "never amounted to anything as a farming locality, and hay, wood and natural productions, have become very scarce and taxation is, and has been, ruinous to all those who have as much land lying idle as I have. I do not intend to hold on to some of mine much longer. If I cannot sell some this year I intend to let the Municipality take it. Jimmy, Sandy & Willie (their brothers) are as you knew them. Only Willie is on Section 1, Twp 16, R.3. They are no richer but rather the other way. Miss Gunn from Australia is still at Clandeboye."

"Miss Gunn from Australia" would have been the daughter of the brother of Donald's that went to Australia. In a letter in 1897 John mentions a relative still in Scotland: "I got a letter from a friend of the Gunn's in Caithness by last mail, in which the writer told me that Alexander Gunn, a cousin of our father, is about eighty years of age, and is living with a widowed sister in Kilsminster, about 20 miles out of Wick. Live in a house so small that he has to sleep in a barn, and they are very poor. He had been a Captain in the Militia I think and was, and is now, said to be a wonderful old man-straight and quick in his movements. Still with a rugged fine face. Just a type of a genuine old highlander whose photograph would be very interesting to have. Could you send some money and I will add some too and send it all to Wick for his portrait, but we must not delay as he is very old."

John Gunn was the local Member of Parliament in the 1870's so had a keen interest in politics that surfaced in many of his letters. But he also wrote about events that took place along the Red River more than a hundred years ago that gives us some idea of what that part of the country was like and how weather and fires affected their lives.

In January 1894 he wrote to his brother Donald telling him that the only son of the late William Richards of St. Andrew's wanted to buy the wood off the outer end of the outer two miles

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'Miss Gunn from Australia' (third paragraph) is a daughter of William Gunn of Waranga Basin, Victoria, Australia. William is a half-brother to Donald Gunn of Manitoba. See the Third Appendix for more on her visit. The Alexander Gunn who was a 'Captain in the Militia' was a son of Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin. Alexander was an historian of note with many of his papers now stored at Nucleus, the Wick Archives. He went bankrupt in his old age. Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin was a brother to William Gunn, father of Donald Gunn of Manitoba.

of Lot 206. That lot was still owned by Donald's wife Sarah. It had belonged to her first husband Morris H. Bird.

John goes out with the prospective wood buyer and writes "we went out to the part of the outer two miles that has some wood on it, viz the eastern end, where there is some rather scattered poplar of a small size (7 inches and less) on about 1/4 of a mile at the outer end, through which a fire ran last spring, for this he offers 30 cents a cord. Coming westward there is about a half mile of scrubby spruce, intermixed with some small tamarac and willows, on lowland, which saved it from the fire. He did not make a separate offer for this, but offered fifty dollars for the whole. He proposes getting the wood to market as quickly as possible, and promises to pay $10.00 per month, and to pay all within five months. He thinks he may get 50 cords of the poplar, this I doubt, however this may be.

His offer amounts to $15.00 for the poplar and $35.00 for the spruce, which I think is about all one could get for it. In fact the wood is being stolen now and very soon there will be none to sell-the people from Springfield have roads there and so have the people from the River. He appears to be an honest fellow. He also says he will pay all when he has sold half the wood."

In the same letter he says: "The thermometer was -56 two days ago and it is still very cold. Times are hard here this winter. Nothing to do except in the wood line and the pay is very poor...a good many are in that business. Andrew Fidler and Gilbert (John's son) secured the wood off the west half of 33.12.5 off which they expect to get 400 cords and several thousand fencing for fifty dollars. They are chopping and hauling to Gonor station now where they get $1.75 per cord on the ground. This is not a high price but all that can be got."

Later in 1894, on August 4th, he wrote another letter to his brother Donald thanking him for the hay on lot 206 and goes on: "since I wrote you I rented 720 acres of hay land, 3 grants, but the one I expected 100 tons off has got burnt up. It was near the creek and all that section of country has been on fire for over two weeks and everything east of the second swamp and south and east of Tommy Mowat's swamp is burnt and the ground is burning in many places. We are making hay in dangerous proximity to these fires in both said swamps.

A fire has been burning east of the railroad on the back of Lot 210 towards Birds hill and 206 may be burnt east of the R.R. but I hope not. And the people are all at the hay thereabouts and in saving theirs may save yours. In reference to money for hay off the said lot in the past I am sorry to say it was very little I ever got, and none lately.

In 1892 I rented it to our sister Matilda and have not been able to get any pay-and last year she told me Mrs. Gunn gave her

the hay, and I did not have anything to do with it. I have not got anything from Richards for the wood, but he has not sold it, and he has been burning lime, and is to pay up when he gets pay for the lime. I intend to see him one of these days. As to the hay Matilda got I fear the chances of pay are not bright as she seems to have a worthless family and they are very poor. Crops of every kind are poor and very irregular, times hard, cattle and horses are a drug in the market. I have just heard that the part of lot 206 east of the C.P.R. is burnt, and a fire very near on the inner two miles."

His letter to Donald continues: "I was glad to hear you were all well, but sorry to hear about the ravages of the drought and the hail. Nothing new or strange amongst us, only Ben's oldest son (Note: Ben was the son of John's, and Donald's, brother Alexander-- both son and grandson being named Benjamin McKenzie Gunn) has obtained a third class certificate as a teacher and my son H. George has finished his College course, and had the degree of B.A. conferred on him. He has charge of the congregation in the town of Douglas for which he gets $9.00 per week, and free board and lodgings, and horse and buggy. He and Reginald were here last week, they came to the Exhibition. Reg is getting fat and heavy. Your namesake is at Calgary. He is building for himself this summer and gets enough work to keep him comfortable. My other two sons are here. We are very busy. This is late Saturday night, and my people are not home from the hay. I fear the fire is troubling them. Monday-lads had to watch the fires yesterday. No more hay burnt. They are out again today. No rain yet, everything beginning to suffer from the dry weather."

In a letter dated Gonor, 01 April 1895, John Gunn asks his brother Donald: "Did you see the contents of a paper entitled 'Some very old Inhabitants' which was read for Dr. Schultz before the Historical Society, Winnipeg, last December, in the Free Press Journal of Decb. 6th last? It was in connection with an article our father had written many years ago on the movements of Canadian Aboriginal tribes, etc. etc."

Many letters were exchanged between John and Donald in the next few years as Donald looked into the possibility of his wife and children being heirs to the Peter Fidler estate as she was a daughter of Peter Fidler, the son of the Peter Fidler who left a will leaving, 200 years after his year of birth (1769), all his estate with accrued interest to his youngest son's heirs. Unfortunately for Donald there was no money to be found and they weren't able to become rich! John kept getting long letters from Donald exploring every legal aspect of the case and John would answer them after he had contacted various people.

John Gunn once told his brother: "I have received your long, rambling letter". Another time he told him, after getting two letters at once: "I have read them over & over and have not found anything new in their scattered pages and I would suggest that you get some good-sized papers for future use, as one at my

age can take in the meaning of anything I read much better when the matter read is continuous, and does not traverse too many subjects."

John's health was deteriorating. In a letter dated 03 October 1896 he said: "have been troubled with cancer on the outside of my breast for more than a year and it got so bad that I had to go to the Winnipeg Hospital on the 30th of July. I was chloroformed the next day and a piece about 4 by 1 1/2 inches to the bone was removed. I then stayed there one month when the wound had so far healed that I was allowed to come home where it has been attended to since and the sore is about closed up and the inflammation much reduced. But the skin over the part removed is still very tender therefore I have to keep quiet and cannot work yet."

In the same letter he gives some news of his family: "Margaret Jane is at the outer farm with her family. They too are well and have a good crop of grain and hay. Mrs. Gunn is showing her age. Notwithstanding she is continually on her feet, working at something. She keeps plump and healthy. Our H. George will likely arrive home from his summer mission field in North Dakota tomorrow and after spending a few days here will go back to Auburn in the state of New York to finish his theological studies. Mary was home seeing us in June. She likes her trade well and may stay there for sometime."

In a letter dated 23 February 1897 sending his sympathy on the death of Donald's wife Sarah he mentions that he is not feeling too well. His right arm is 'gathering strength' but he concludes the letter by saying: "It is my inside organs that are not acting as they used to that is troubling me. You must excuse this short letter. I have a good deal of writing to do in connection with different kinds of business for the P.O. (he was Postmaster at Gonor) and for others and my right arm gets tired since I was operated on". His letters during early 1898 mention that he is 'not feeling well'. He died 8th September 1898. Emma Garrioch Gunn, his wife, died in 1922.

The final news from the John Gunn branch of the family came in a letter written by John's daughter Emma to Donald Gunn's children, John and Minnie, on the death of their father. Dated Lockport, March 31st, 1927 it reads: "My dear Cousins-It was with a feeling of deep sorrow that I read in last night's paper of the death of your father and my favorite uncle. I cannot tell you how sorry & disappointed I am for ever since my Mother died 5 years ago I have been wanting to go and visit him. I was hoping he would live till then, but fate willed otherwise. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy. You certainly will miss him. I missed my parents, even yet I do. This has been a bad season of flu. We all had it but not bad tho'. So many old people died with it turning into pneumonia. I also note that you lost two of your brothers. I knew them both as children. Well I lost my three oldest brothers. All died suddenly away from home-Reggie, Donald & John. There are

just five of us living. My oldest sister, Mrs. K.M.Garrioch, has been sick all winter. The last letter I had she was some better. She is 70 years old.

We are all getting old.....do any of your family ever come down to the city? If you do don't forget to visit Lockport. It is one of the beauty spots of Manitoba. With our bridge & canal, our place is quite a summer resort. Stands & restaurants all around. Some of you should come down for a visit. I am always at home also my sister Mary. All the relatives are well when last I heard from them. We are few in number tho. My brother Gilbert lives near us. He is a widower, no family, & George is in the city for the winter but will be home soon now. Then my nephew Dale Johnstone & his wife & two children live with us so you see we do not get time to be lonesome. We still keep cows & farm. Please write to me and give me all the news of the family. With lots of love to yourself & all in the family, I am, your loving cousin, Emma Gunn."

On Saturday last the death occurred at Gonor of Mr. John Gunn, in his 73rd year. The deceased was a son of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, by whom he was educated. Mr. Gunn was an enthusiastic politician, and twice elected to the legislature. He was an ardent supporter of the late Sir John Schultz, and was a vigorous temperance worker. His wife and eight children survive him.

WELL KNOWN PIONEER DEAD

MRS. EMMA GARRIOCH GUNN

who died this morning at 7.30 at the family residence, Lockport. Mrs. Gunn was 96 years, 7 months and 4 days old. She was connected with several of the outstanding families of the old Red River settlement and was the eighth child of William Garrioch, of Middlechurch and formerly of St. John's parish, at which latter place she was born July 24, 1831. Her mother was Nancy Cook, daughter of William Henning Cook, chief factor and former governor of the Hudson's Bay company at York Factory on Hudson Bay. Mr. Cook was one of those who, on his retirement from the company's service, decided to cast his lot in with the Red River settlement, locating at Middlechurch and taking an active and influential part in the affairs of the settlement, becoming a member of the council of Assiniboia and holding other important offices. Mr. Garrioch, the late Mrs. Gunn's father, whose home at Middlechurch was known as Orkney cottage in commemoration of his own Orkney home across the seas, was also a man who commanded the respect and approval of his neighbors to a marked degree.

The deceased Mrs. Gunn was married to John Gunn, fourth son of Hon. Donald Gunn, of Little Britain, well known as one of Manitoba's earliest historians and whose name is connected with the history of the country in various other ways. He pre-deceased his wife some 28 years. Upon her marriage Mrs. Gunn went to the present Lockport to reside and upon the same homestead that she went to as a bride 67 years ago she remained until her death. Of this marriage there were born eight children, the eldest son being W.R. Gunn, M.A., who died a few years ago at Melfort, Sask. The living survivors of the family are Mrs. Kemper Garrioch, of Fairford; the Misses Emma A. and Mary Gunn, living at home; G. G. Gunn, of Lockport, and Rev. H. G. Gunn.

The funeral will be held from the family residence at Lockport to Little Britain cemetery.

MRS. GARRIOCH, BORN ON RED RIVER, DIES

(21 APRIL 1927)

There died Thursday morning at St. Boniface hospital Mrs. Kemper M. Garrioch, of Fairford, Man., in the 71st year of her age. She had been in poor health for a number of years past, but was always able to rally from her various attacks of sickness and attend to her household duties. On the return of one of these periodic illnesses, she was brought to the St. Boniface hospital last Monday and appeared to be doing well and in no particular danger. Early Thursday morning, however, she suddenly took a turn for the worse and passed away.

Mrs. Garrioch was a daughter of the late John Gunn, ex-M.L.A. for St. Andrews, and a granddaughter of Hon. Donald Gunn, the historian. She leaves to mourn her demise, her husband, Mr. Kemper McKenzie Garrioch, of Fairford, and the following sons and daughters by a former marriage: J. E. D. Johnstone, Lockport; Charles Johnstone, Starbuck; Campbell Johnstone, Reston; Mrs. H. N. Ozouf, Gypsumville; Mrs. Chris. Lloyd, Starbuck, and Mrs. Harry Garrioch, Winnipegosis.

The following sisters and brothers also survive: The Misses Emma A. and Mary Gunn, of Lockport; also G. G. Gunn, of the same place, and Rev. H. G. Gunn, of Winnipeg.

The remains will be buried in the family plot in Little Britain cemetery Sunday afternoon. The funeral will leave the old family home at Lockport at 2 o'clock. Service at Little Britain United church at 2.45 p.m.

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Descendants from Margaret Jane Gunn, the first child, exist in 2025.

Chapter Seven – Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain fourth child Alexander

CHAPTER SEVEN

DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN

FOURTH CHILD

ALEXANDER

The fourth born child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was also a son, named Alexander, but known as Sandy to his family. He was born 10 February 1829 and baptised on 07 April 1829. He married Angelique Mackenzie, born at RR in 1832, a daughter of Benjamin Mackenzie and Catherine Campbell. They were married on 08 March 1854 at Kildonan Church. In the 1870 census they lived on lot 127 in the parish of St. Andrews. They had six children, the first of whom Benjamin Gunn, born on 24 December 1855 and baptised on 09 January 1858 at Kildonan Church, married his cousin Elizabeth (Lizzie) Taylor. They had three sons and two daughters: Benjamin MacKenzie Gunn; Nora; William; Mabel and Alexander James Gunn.

Alexander and Angelique then had a daughter, Lucy Gunn, born in 1858 and baptised at Kildonan Church on 27 June 1858 who died of T.B. at the age of twenty. The two next born were Colin Roderick Gunn, baptised on 03 May 1863 at Kildonan Church and Alexander James Gunn born 30 June 1865.

The fourth son of Alexander Gunn and Angelique Mackenzie was Donald Gunn. He was born on 31 August 1867. He too married a cousin, Leta Muckle, the daughter of Janet Gunn and Alexander Muckle. They had three sons and a daughter: William Robert Montgomery Muckle ('Sandy') Gunn; Angelique Marquerite (Gunn) Light; Donald William Robert Gunn and Archibald McLure Gunn. Donald died on 08 April 1962. Leta had died in 1914.

The last born child of Alexander and Angelique was Alexander William Robert Montgomery Muckle Gunn--in most letters referred to as "Willie". He was said to be twelve years younger than Donald so was probably born about 1880. He married Johanna Johnson, born 17 June 1878. She died in 1974 and he died in 1953. They had four sons and one daughter; Ada Angelique (Gunn) Kerrighan, William Raymond Gunn, Edward Gunn, Donald Gunn and Clifford Gunn. In one of Janet Muckle's letters there is mention of "Willie" being married on 08 March 1899 but no further details as to which "Willie".

From a letter of Janet Muckle to her brother Donald we learn that in March 1899 Angelique, while visiting Harriet McKenzie who was teaching the Indian School, got very sick and Janet went and got her. To quote Janet: "She was very sick, had pleuro pneumonia. Had the doctor down and kept her and Sandy here two weeks. They went home last Monday. She was quite better."

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S 1-4

NAME	ALEXANDER GUNN	SPOUSE ANGELIQUE MACKENZIE	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	10 FEBRUARY 1829 R.R.S.	1832 R.R.S. MANITOBA	PERSONAL LETTERS FAMILY BIBLE RECORD OF BIRTH
Marriage/Place	08 MARCH 1854 KILDONAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MANITOBA		
Death/Buried	26 AUGUST 1902 LITTLE BRITAIN	24 JANUARY 1909 LITTLE BRITAIN	
Occupation	FARMER		
Religion	PROTESTANT PRESBYTERIAN	PROTESTANT - PRESBYTERIAN	
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	BENJAMIN MACKENZIE/CATHERINE CAMPBELL	

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	m	BENJAMIN MCKENZIE GUNN	24 DECEMBER 1855 ST. ANDREW'S PARISH	ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) TAYLOR	1930 MANITOBA
2	F	LUCY MARGARET GUNN	BAPTISED 27 JUNE 1858 ST. ANDREW'S	UNMARRIED	1878 (20 YEARS OLD) BURIED LITTLE BRITAIN
3	m	COLIN RODERICK GUNN	BAPTISED 03 MAY 1863 ST. ANDREW'S		
4	m	ALEXANDER JAMES GUNN	30 JUNE 1865 ST. ANDREW'S MANITOBA		
5	m	DONALD GUNN	31 AUGUST 1867 ST. ANDREW'S	31 AUGUST 1898 LETA MARGARET MONTGOMERY MUCKLE	OR APRIL 1962
6	m	ALEXANDER WILLIAM GUNN	1880 ST. ANDREW'S	08 MARCH 1899 JOHANNA JOHNSON	
7					
8					
9					
10					

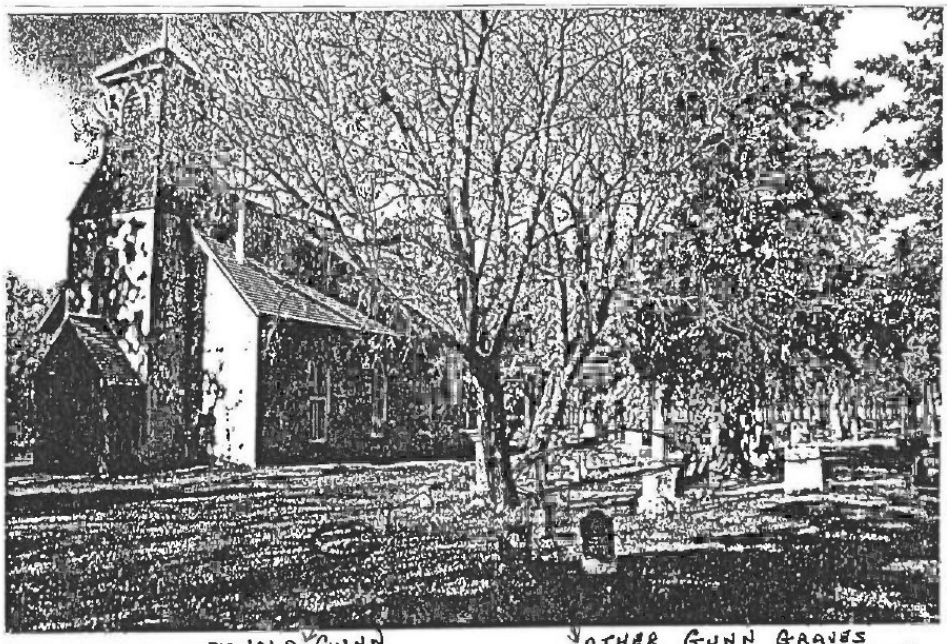
Alexander died in 1902, Angelique on 24 January 1909. In a letter, dated 07 September 1902, from Janet (Gunn) Muckle to her brother Donald Gunn she tells of Alexander's death--"You may before now have seen by the papers that another of our family circle has left us. Poor Sandy has been feeling poorly for about six months, sometimes from indigestion and lately from heart trouble. Dr. Grain was treating him for the latter disease, and he was getting quite over it when he was stricken unconsious with hemorrhage of the brain, he never knew anyone after that.

On Sunday the 24th ult (Note: 'ult'-previous month) he was so well, and said he had not felt so well for months. Our brother Jamie was there all afternoon and Ben's son McKenzie and they all had tea outside, he chatted so long that Jamie was a little late for church at seven. They went to their room after nine and about ten he had the stroke. Dr. Grain told them to send for the boys (Donald & Ben were out at their new place making hay) and for me. Alex and I went off at nine and got there at midnight.

Poor Sandy died at 5 o'clock Tuesday the 26th. We went up for Jamie who was much startled as he never expected or knew that Sandy was worse. He had had his will made, giving all he owned to Angelique, appointed Ben sole executor-never mentioned what he left or had. The funeral was on 28th and as there was no room along his children he was laid to rest alongside dear Carrie (Note: by 'Carrie' was Janet referring to Caroline Ballenden?) with room for Angelique at his side. I think we all should give $5.00 each and have an iron railing around the Gunn plot. John is buried some distance away along north wall of church and Joe Johnstone nearby. It was very hard losing another brother so soon after dear George's death".

Further news of the Alexander Gunn family is provided in two letters to Donald Gunn at Devil's Lake from his nephew Ben, or, as his signature reads "B.McK. Gunn". The first was headed Dunara P.O. and dated 22 December 1903. Among other things he says: "I am settled on the N.W.1/4 Sec 30 Tp. 16 R.4E near the Winnipeg Beach branch line. I am wintering 50 head of cattle and four horses. Times are good here and have been for the last couple of years. Land has gone up in value. I have the place I am on and a piece in St. Andrew's, Alister's old lot, and half the old lot which my father had on the east side of the River. The Electric Railway is now completed to West Selkirk & has helped to raise the price of land. We just have our two girls at home, one boy Willie came home last week, he works on the Electric Railway. One works with the Dominion Fish Company in summer & stays home in the winter. The oldest boy teaches school at Cypress River & will get home tomorrow".

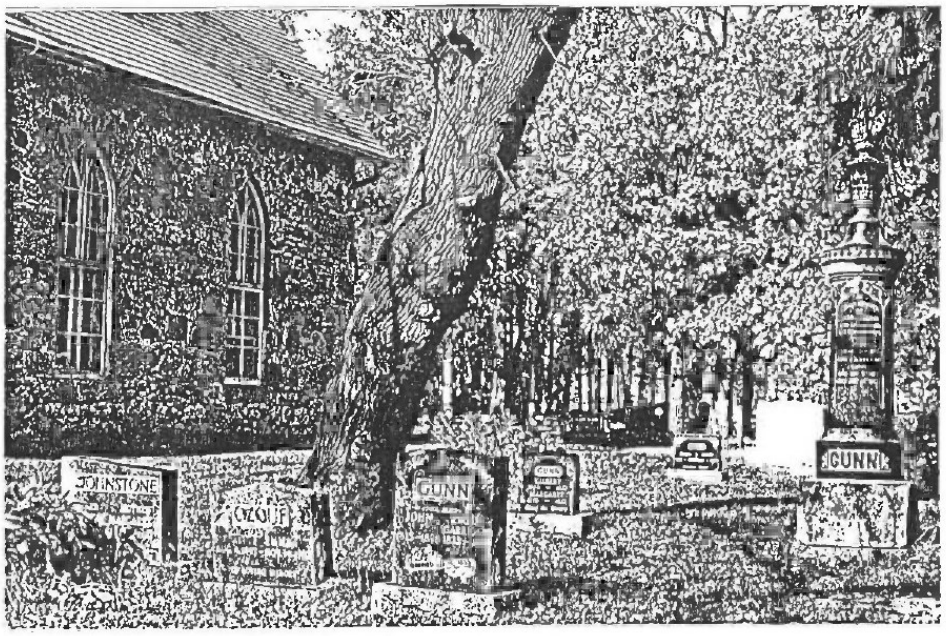
The second letter is dated 04 February 1909 with the address given as Woodfield P.O. Times are not as good as they were in 1903. He tells his uncle Donald: "My mother died on the 24th of January '09 & and was buried on the 26th. On the night of



DONALD GUNN
MARGARET SWAIN

OTHER GUNN GRAVES
AS SHOWN IN OTHER PHOTO

LITTLE BRITAIN CHURCH



the 23rd I got word that she was ill. Next morning I started in to Selkirk with a load of Beef & I met McClure Muckle coming out to let me know of her death. Our eldest daughter, Nora, died on the first of August last. She was ill for nearly a year. My eldest son B.McK. is in J.A.M. Aikins law office in Winnipeg. He will complete his studies about July next. The youngest son William is with the T.Eaton Company. He has been with them since they started their store in Winnipeg. (Note: William died about 1910 after falling from a ladder at Eatons while putting up Christmas decorations!). Alex has a place next to mine and he stays with us. Our only daughter is also at home". (Note: their daughter Mabel drowned in the Red River just north of the mouth of Gunn's Creek at Lockport. She was 48).

He goes on to say: "There are very few of the old settlers left along the River, the most of the River lots are held by American speculators and they ask from $30.00 to $50.00 per acre for lands which cost them from 4.00 to 8.00 per acre. Down in this part of the country at the present time a person could not get $6.00 per acre. I live on the N.W.1/4 Sec. 30 Tp 16 R.4E & just north of me Galacians are settled in great numbers. I am wintering about sixty-five head of cattle & five ponies. For the last two years there has been very little money in cattle. Buyers do not come round as they get a better class of cattle from the west. My brother Donald is working at the St. Andrew's Locks. Willie is on the old home place.

Although the original spelling was "Mackenzie" it seems that many in the Gunn family used "McKenzie" when writing to each other about Alexander's family.

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This line continues in 2025 through two sons of Alexander namely Donald Gunn 1867-1962 who married Leta M. M. Muckle 1877-1914 and Donald's younger brother Alexander 1880-1953 who married Johanna Johnson 1878-1974.

Descendants also exist from Benjamin Mackenzie Gunn 1855-1930 who married Elizabeth Taylor 1857-1920. Elizabeth Taylor was the daughter of Margaret Gunn 1838-1881, the eighth child of Donald Gunn.

Chapter Eight – Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain fifth child Matilda

CHAPTER EIGHT

DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN

FIFTH CHILD

MATILDA

The fifth child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was Matilda who was born, also at the Red River, on 20 November 1831. She married John Atkinson, born Red River 1825, a son of George Atkinson and Margaret , on 29 March 1860. They had at least five children, three sons and two daughters: James, John, Donald, Margaret and Eliza. In 1870 they were listed as living in Poplar Point although their children were listed as being born at Red River between 1860 and 1869. James 1860, John 1861, Donald 1862, Margaret 1867 and Eliza 1869. In a number of letters Janet Muckle mentions Matilda and "Tillie". Janet in one letter also said "John married Bella Mowat from St. Andrews. Alex lives in Winnipeg. Donald not strong and Tillie is not working" when she talked about Matilda's family being well but 'not doing well'. Either Eliza was known as Tillie or there was another daughter.

In the Archives in Winnipeg there was the following information: John Atkinson, 35, Headingly, carpenter, widower, s/o George, blacksmith, married Matilda Gunn, 28, March 29, 1860. Reference: Headingly Marriages 1858-1898 (7). Son James baptised 1861; son Donald Gunn Atkinson baptised 27 December 1864, born Long Lake.

There was another reference to Matilda: William Pruden, St. Andrews, farmer, son of William Pruden and Nancy Pruden, married Matilda Atkinson, 55, Poplar Point, 09 July 1887, daughter of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain. Reference St. Andrew's marriages 1884-1889 (21). William had been baptised 29 May 1832 at Red River Settlement. There was a William Pruden, Senior, who died 25 September 1890 of inflammation and was buried 26 September 1890 at the age of 57. Reference St. Andrew's burials 1889-1895 (237). Perhaps this was Matilda's second husband. Vital Statistics and Archives did not have a date or place of death for Matilda. Donald Gunn had a letter from his brother William dated 23 March 1915 in which he said "Kate got a letter from her sister Flora. She wrote that Matilda was buried at the Portage."

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S1-5

NAME	MATILDA GUNN	SPOUSE	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	20 NOVEMBER 1831 R.R.S.	JOHN ATKINSON	PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES CHURCH RECORDS
Marriage/Place	29 MARCH 1860 HEADINGLY, MANITOBA?		
Death/Buried	BEFORE 1915 THE 'PORTAGE'	LIVED POPLAR POINT, MANITOBA	FAMILY LETTERS
Occupation			
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses	WILLIAM PRUDEN 09 JULY 1887	LISTED AS WIDOWER IN 1860	REF. ST. ANDREW'S MARRIAGES
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	GEORGE ATKINSON/	

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	m	JAMES ATKINSON	BAPTISED 1861 BORN 1860 R.R.S		
2	m	JOHN ATKINSON	1861	BELLA MOWAT	
3	m	DONALD GUNN ATKINSON	BAPTISED 27 DEC. 1867 LONG LAKE		
4	F	MARGARET ATKINSON	1867		
5	F	ELIZA (ELIZABETH JANE) ATKINSON	1869		
?6	m	ALEXANDER ATKINSON	1871		
?7	F	MATILDA ATKINSON	1873		
8					
9					
10					

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I suspect the line from Eizabeth Jane Atkinson continues in 2025. She married Wiliam Pruden 1868 – 1958 and had ten children.

Chapter Nine - Donald Gunn / Margaet Swain sixth child George

CHAPTER NINE

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

SIXTH CHILD

GEORGE

The sixth child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was George. He was born 11 December 1833 and baptised 28 January 1834. In the census of 1870 he was listed as single and living at Poplar Point, Manitoba. We know that he, along with his brother Donald, ran a sawmill on the western slopes of the Riding Mountains northeast of Birtle, Manitoba. In the book "On the Sunny Slopes of the Riding Mountains", a history of Rossburn & District published by the Rossburn History Club in 1984, they talk about a lumber mill established by Donald and George Gunn on the Birdtail River, "what is now known as Gunn Valley". They go on to say "All the lumber from this mill was used by the settlers. The power was from a water wheel, which they had trouble keeping in shape, but when it worked it beat sawing with a pit saw. This mill gave work to many settlers during the winter. It lasted about three years."

George eventually married. One record says he married Lisa Otterskin from Fife (File?) Hills, Saskatchewan and the other mentions a Julia Winechild. George and his wife had at least five children, two sons and three daughters. There is also mention of a Max Gunn born in 1871 that could be a son but no mention is made of him in the obituary for the first born child, a daughter Nancy, who was born in 1872 in Fort Garry, Manitoba. She came west with her parents to the Maple Creek area in 1882.

In 1890 Nancy Gunn married Gabriel Leveille, an ex-RCMP scout and trader. They both died in 1959. They had five sons and two daughters: George; Liza (Gunn) Sinclair; Edward, Moses, Madeline (Gunn) LaSanti; Joseph and Louis. Nancy's obituary lists her father as a trader and freighter who operated a ferry service and freighted supplies on the Saskatchewan River during the Reil rebellion.

Another son of George Gunn and his wife was Donald Edward Gunn born 1877 and who died in Shaunavon in November 1954. He died of exposure and was found, after a five day search, about three miles from the home he shared with his brother William on the Gunn ranch. He had been married to Julia Fayant.

The next born was a girl Eliza Margaret Gunn, 1879-1888, who died as a child. The next child in the George Gunn family was also a girl, Catherine Jane Gunn who was born in 1882. She married Joseph Bird of Prince Albert, a son of Nicolas Bird.

V10/88

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S1-6

NAME	GEORGE GUNN	SPOUSE	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	11 DECEMBER 1833 R.R.S.	JULIA WINECHILD OR LISA OTTERSKIN	AGNES POTTER'S NOTES
Marriage/Place	APPROX 1870 R.R.S.		
Death/Buried	13 DECEMBER 1901		
Occupation	TRADER/RANCHER		FAMILY LETTERS
Religion	PROTESTANT		
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN		

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	F	NANCY GUNN	1872 FORT GARRY, MANITOBA	1890 GABRIEL LEVEILLE	1958 OR 1959 MAPLE CREEK, SASK
2	m	DONALD EDWARD GUNN	1877 MANITOBA		NOVEMBER 1954 SHAUNAVON, SASK
3	F	ELIZA MARGARET GUNN	1879 MANITOBA	UNMARRIED	1888 SWIFT CURRENT DISTRICT
4	F	CATHERINE JANE GUNN	1882	JOSEPH BIRD	JANUARY 1910
5	m	WILLIAM JAMES GUNN	24 MAY 1890 SWIFT CURRENT AREA	UNMARRIED	05 FEBRUARY 1989 SHAUNAVON, SASK
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Messrs George & Donald Gunn ____ Dr.

To The Hudsons Bay Company

For the following supplies at Fort Ellice

1879					
Nov	19	To 3 prs damaged Drawers	75	2	25
		2 " " Beav. Tr. Trousers		5	" "
		1 Duffle Capot & Bell		7	50
		3 Blk Tail Deer skins		5	" "
		1 pr fine Blankets		10	" "
		1 cw hite do 3 pt		4	" "
		1 Comforter		1	" "
		Cloth & Beads			75
		1 brimmed shirt		2	50
		2 Com. shirts	2 ea	2	00
		2 Left Thread Snub do			75
		1 " do 25			25
		1 Jews Harp			12
		3 papers Matches			13
		Confection			20
	20	1 shingle Knife		1	" "
		1 Blk Castor bil 25 2 Linen Pocket 50			75
		5 lb Bacon 1 ct 3 lb Biscuit 75		1	75
		1 Com. Copper Kettle 3 lb		3	" "
		Matches			05
		2 Rat Traps		1	25
		1 Expandable Duffle			75
Mch	5	2 Bags of Corn		12	" "
		1 lb Sugar 25 4 lb Bacon 1 ct		1	25
	9	46 Beans 2 22 1 Bag Flour 49 x 17 ct		9	22
		1 Bush of Barley 1 25 68 lb Bacon 1 ct		18	25
		1 lb Tea 75 1 Blk Hunting Bakan 1 ct		2	25
		1 Com Frying Pan 75 1 lb Sugar 25		1	" "
		Carried Forward		93	97

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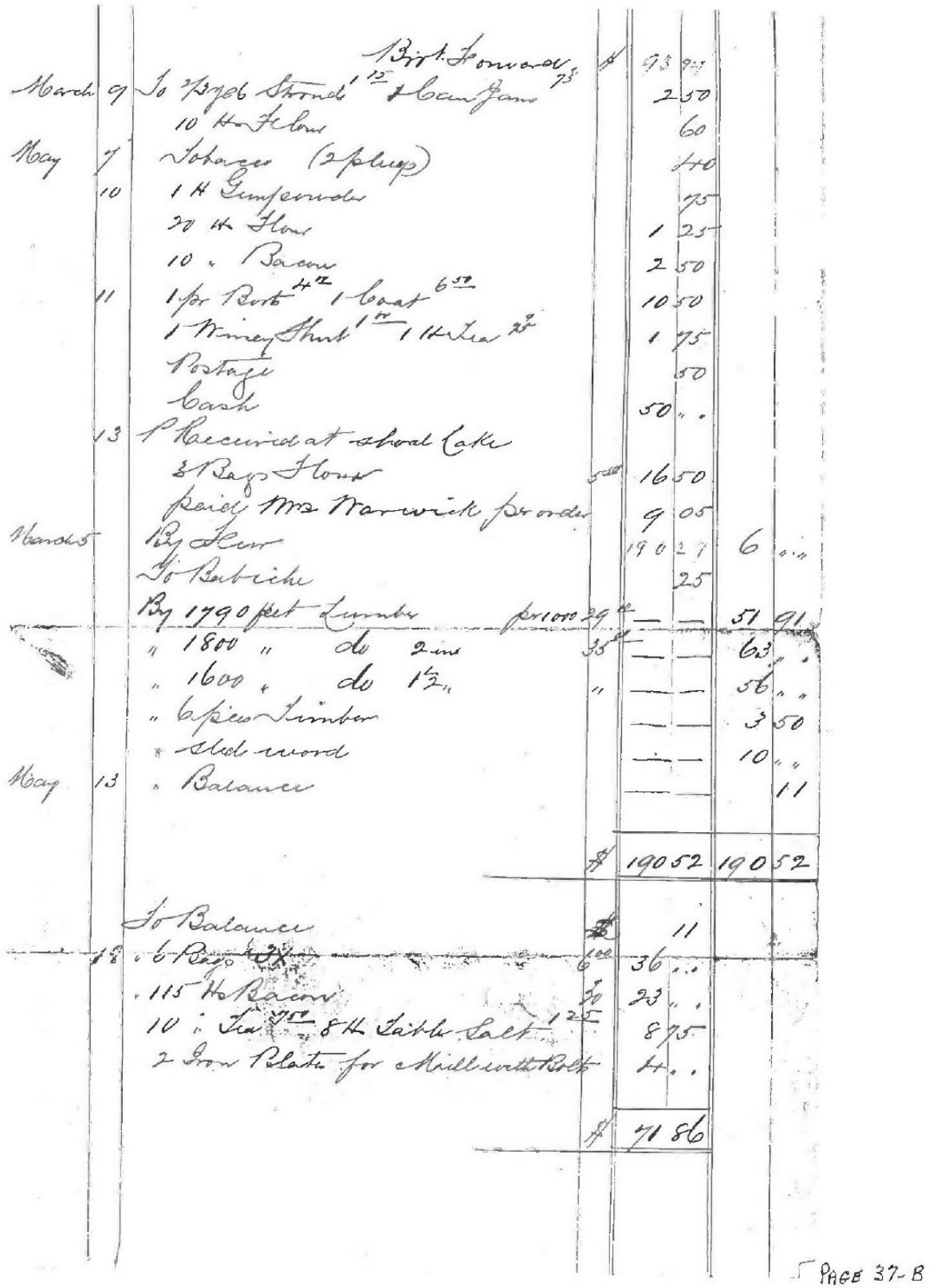


Bfwd forward 73 94
March 9 To 2 B 196 Stroud 1/2 & Can Jam 2 50
10 " Flour 60
May 7 Tobacco (2 plugs) 40
10 1 H Gunpowder 75
20 " Flour 1 25
10 " Bacon 2 50
11 1 pr Boots 4/2 1 coat 6/2 10 50
1 Nancy Shirt 1/2 1 H Ties 2/ 1 75
Postage 50
Cash 50 " "
13 P Rec'd at Flood Lake
3 Bags Flour 5 00 16 50
Paid Mrs Warwick pr order 9 05
March 5 By Rent 190 27 6 " "
To Babiche 25
By 1790 pcs Lumber pr 1000 29/ — — 51 91
" 1800 " do 2 ins 35/ — — 63 " "
" 1600 " do 1 1/2 " 11 — — 56 " "
" 6 pcs Timber — — 3 50
" Shod wood — — 10 " "
May 13 " Balance — — 11
£ 190 52 190 52
To Balance £ 11
18 " 6 Bags [illegible] 6 100 36 " "
" 115 H Bacon 50 23 " "
10 " Tea 7/2 8 H Table Salt 1/25 8 75
2 Iron Plates for Mill with Bolts 4 " "
£ 71 86

PAGE 37-B

George Gunn ——— Dr.
To
Hudsons Bay Company
For the following supplies @ Fort Ellice

1880	Amount of Cr rendered the date			£	71	86
May 20	To 130 lbs Beans	@	04	£	9	10
	" 2 10/14 Bus Oats	"	45		4	01½
	" 2 Seamless Bags	"	50		1	..
	" 1½ Bus Potatoes	"	50		2	25
				£	86	22½
					$	88 22

To 116 lbs Wheat = 1 14/15 Bus

Hudsons Bay Company
Fort Ellice
20th May 1880

George Gunn Dr
To
Hudsons Bay Co
Fort Ellice
20th May 1880

Catherine died in January 1910. She had five children, one son and four daughters. Her first child, Annie, was born before Catherine married Joseph Bird so kept the Gunn name. In fact she was a Gunn all her life for she married Victor Gunn, the youngest son of William Gunn. She died in 1981.

The next born of Catherine Gunn and Joseph Bird was Mary Margaret Bird who married Frank Gehlen. They had seven sons and three daughters born between 1927 and 1941. Nicolas Bird was the next born. He married Beatrice O'Hara. Next came another girl, Sarah Bird, whose married name was Carruthers. There was another girl, Margaret Bird, who died in 1910, the same year she was born.

The last born child of George Gunn and his wife was William James Gunn who was born 24 May 1890 and lived until 05 February 1989. He was a rancher in the Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, area and died there.

Most of the information on the George Gunn family comes from family letters. In John Gunn's letter from Gonor, Manitoba, dated 04 January 1892 he says: "I get letters from our brother George very often. He is the same easy going fellow, as full of information about the country west, its Climate, Hills, Rivers, Lakes, etc. etc. as it is possible for any one to be. His lobby is that the best spot in the whole of Canada is at the junction of the Red Deer and the Bow River, or South Saskatchewan Rivers. He has described the land & all else peculiar to that part so full and in such a tempting way that I have nearly decided to go there to settle."

In another letter from John Gunn to his brother Donald on 24 April 1893 he again talks of their brother George: "I had a letter from our brother George. He is now waiting for empty cars on which to load bones. They were all well and free from complaints. He too gave me a sad account of deaths and misery amongst the cattle chiefly from want of shelter from the cold which he says was excessive at times. He winds up by saying 'I think stockmen will learn a lesson after a while. I have often told them that cattle want good warm sheds to go into in the very cold weather' then again he says 'I think more of this country than I ever did before as a good cattle country. With good warm sheds to lie in at nights they would not need a bite of hay'."

As usual, John Gunn at Gonor, passes on information about the family to his brother Donald at Devil's Lake. On 11 May 1893 he has again heard from their brother George. John writes: "I had a letter from brother George by last mail. He and his were well. They are going into the Bone business, and 'may move into the bone field in a day or two to gather some more'. He says the price has risen fifty cents on the ton and still it will scarcely pay. But he says 'I may float some down to Saskatoon as great quantities can be got along the river'. He also says, on May 5th, 'we have had a very cold spring, hard frost up till a few days

ago. The people of this part have no reason to complain of the hard winter when they take into consideration the fact that in Europe such cold has not been known since 1739, and that such winters only come to this part at very distant intervals'."

From George Gunn's letters to his brother Donald we learn more about his life. In a letter dated Swift Current, 20 January 1898 he says: "Your welcome letter of the 10th inst came to hand the other day. I am always glad to hear from you and to know that you and your family are well. I am sorry to hear of the Robinson Crusoe like solitary state of Devil's Lake. However your account of Carraghers kindness is like a flood of sunshine from behind a dark cloud. Give him my compliments and tell him to get ready for the Peace River. I think it is our next best move. It is not nearly as cold as where you are now. I have seen good wheat that was raised in that part of the world. By going up there we could get hold of some good townsites and we could raise cattle too and with very little trouble we could drive them to the Yukon. There will be money scattered all along that route this summer and likely for some time to come."

He continues: "I am sorry you did not do better with the horses. If I had them now I could turn them into cash at Edmonton. I am thinking of starting there about the 20th March. I will leave the family at the ranch to farm. I may take about 20 horses to sell and come right back or go on to the Peace River. My cattle have done well so far. They have not seen the inside of a house yet this winter. We had a good deal of snow in November but it all melted about Christmas. Since that time the ground has been bare and cattle are doing as well as they did in August. The thermometer has been about the freezing point every day and sometimes 2 and 3 degrees above. We expect a change in a day or two but the winter is far gone with us for we always have good grazing by the 15 of Feb. on the sun sides of the hills where the snow gets drifted off. We had a blizzard on the 15 and 16 of December & a large band of cattle drifted into my place from the north and a pack of wolves followed them in here. Xavier Semire and his brother Francois trapped three of them. There are about seven of them prowling round here yet. They kill an animal every second or third day."

He finishes the letter later and says: "Saturday 22. I have your letter in my hand. You ask what I think of your going to the Klondike. I do not think it would be too late in life but I do think that you could do something without going that distance. I think that one could do something on the Peace as I said in the beginning of this letter. I am at the fishing lake with the old woman. Donald and Catherine were taking care of the ranch. They drove over here tonight. I am going back tomorrow with all but Donald. He is going south to hunt our horses. I am killing very few fish. I may go in a day or two to Gull Lake to sell some fish and post my letters. I may add a few words to this when I reach the railroad." He adds a postscript on the 23rd: "Donald goes in

to town tomorrow. He takes this along. The weather is stormy this morning, wind N.W. We have had one month of summer weather."

In 1899 Donald had two letters that he kept from his brother George, both dated Swift Current. The first on 10 May 1899 said: "As it is some time since I heard from you I sit down to drop you a few lines. The winter is fairly over and our cattle are in good condition and so are the horses. We finished cutting and branding colts about a month ago. I was away from home for the last twenty days. I went to Miry Creek and from there to Crane Lake. While I was at the latter place a very heavy snow storm came on and lasted for 4 days. In this part it was light and did very little harm."

He continues: "I intend to begin to put down some potatoes tomorrow. I will also put some garden seeds down. As soon as I finish gardening I will be going back to Miry Creek to finish a house and stable for David Ellams, a section foreman, who intends to go on to his ranch in the fall. May 23rd. I started this letter sometime ago but forgot to send it in to the post office. Donald was in sometime ago and got back to the ranch last night, he brought your letter of May 5th. We were very glad to hear from you. I went to the lake to fish and got about $25.00 worth of Whitefish. I salted most of them and took about 400 lbs west and sold them among the ranches. I notice what you say about the horses you got from me. None of them made their appearance here yet. The Pollock horses have not come this way yet. If they are not branded with any other than the Pollock brand you will hardly get them for Pollock will round them up and keep them. The Oxarart outfit did so with a good many. I have one of the latter brand in my band. She was bought by an English halfbreed in the Birch Hills and she got away from him on his way home. He followed her to Saskatoon but could not get hold of her. I wrote to W.R.Gunn to find the owner but he has not written to me since, that was in December."

He concludes that letter with "I also notice what you say about the Doukhobors, and about your leasehold. I think you would do better to move up to this part. You never can keep many cattle or horses where you are. Here you could keep 1,000 as easily as 100. J. Hargraves has 2,500 and I do not know that they cost him any more then they did when he had 100. The Canadian Land and Ranch Company have 6,000 besides the stockers they brought in this spring. These cost them nothing but the rounding up and shipping. They shipped 800 last fall and took in about $40,000."

In a short note of 17 December 1899 he tells Donald: "Your letter of November 14th came here a few days after I left to go to Miry Creek. I have been there for a whole month putting up buildings for a rancher who intends to go in there next summer. Donald brought your letter out to me ten days ago and we are on our way back to the ranch. We are using wagons but they begin to go rather hard. I notice what you say about mares selling so well and I may be down in the spring with a lot to sell. We could take

about 80 head altogether, foals and geldings and mares. And by selling the cows we could make out 100, but some of the cows are too good to part with. In fact, I might say the same of the mares. Your news about your family was very welcome. I notice that John is learning to play the fiddle. My two boys also play the fiddle. William is quite a fiddler but he won't learn his book."

Many of George's letters talked about horses. In one of 11 January 1900 he tells Donald: "I heard today that some of the horses that I sold you were running in this part of the country. There is a sorrel with a little white on one front foot and a black with silver tail. Let me know how many you lost and what ones and if I find them I will take them down in the spring if I can get away. Let me know if anyone has a Clydesdale stallion that he would trade for geldings or mares. What chance would there be to trade horses for cattle? We have not had any snow yet this winter. We never had as nice a winter. The thermometer stood at freezing today and a little snow fell. Mares have been foaling out and the foals are alive and doing well. I had a letter from W.R.Gunn dated January 5th and he says that Maggie Jane's husband died last month, and that Donald was elected alderman at Calgary." (Note: W.R., Maggie Jane & Donald were all children of their brother John and Emma Garrioch)

George's second letter to Donald in 1900 was dated 10th February and again talks about horses: "You say the Doukhobors are paying from $40.00 to $60.00 for medium sized pony mares. That is a good price but I have very few mares that I would care to sell for less than $50.00. I am glad to hear that you enjoy the fine weather. We in this part had no winter till a few days ago. We have had to use a wagon all the time. Donald starts to hunt today and will have to take a wagon. He goes to Miry Creek."

George continues his letter: "If I go down to your part of the country I will go in April so as to be down in the first part of May but I am not sure to go. If we can pick up any of those lost horses that I sold you 3 years ago, and could get something for taking them down, I would try to go. Donald will be going to where those horses were seen and will know them. The black with silver tail is not Jess' colt. I saw two bays advertised sometime after I got back and they may be between this and Moose Jaw. Find out all you can about them and I'll get hold of as many as I can. I will write as soon as I find out about them. I cannot say anything about stallions just now. I will have to get one this summer but I think I can get a large one cheap in Prince Albert. I hope your George's family are better. What is he doing in Touchwood Hills?"

In a letter written in Swift Current December 2nd, 1900 George starts off by mentioning their brother William who went out there from Manitoba in July. George says: "I came into town the other day with Willie. He and his man started home today to my place. He is delighted with the country and has gained 20 lbs

1890

Swift Current Jan 11th
1900

D Gunn
Yorkton

My Dear Brother

I heard today that some of the horses that I sold you were running in this part of the country There is a corael with a little white on one front foot and a black with silver tail. Let me know how many you lost and what ones need if I find them I will take them down in the spring if I can get away Let me know if anyone has a Clydesdale stallion that he would

trade for Geldings or mares what chance would there be to trade horses for cattle we have not had any snow yet this winter, we never had as nice a winter The thermometer stood at freezing today and a little snow fell. Mares have been foaling out and the foals are alive and doing well.

I had a letter from D K Gunn dated Jan 5 and he says that Maggy Jamis husband died last month, and that Donald was elected Alderman at Calgary. Let me hear from you soon Geo Gunn

in the last three months. We had some snow between the 15 & 20 but it is nearly gone. Willie's cattle are doing well, they have not come near the place yet.

Donald was out hunting and got 6 antelope. He is going again in a few days. We picked up one horse near Moose Jaw this summer. He is a brown with white face and white hind legs. Branded GUN on left thigh. He may be one of the lot I took down and sold to you. If you can find the owner I will buy him back. I am short of a work horse. I did a great deal of ploughing last summer and used up my favorite horse. He is spavined in both knees. I never could hear of any of the others that you lost. I left home on Friday and I may not go home till Thursday. I am getting some nets from Winnipeg and I will take them home with me. Fishing commences on the 15th inst. I am very glad to hear that your family are well and that you are all doing well. Times seem to be very prosperous in this part, and more so since the elections. We downed the Conservatives at a great rate this time. Some of the defeated M.P.'s cried like children when they found they were beat. Old Tupper has resigned for good and I think it would be better for the party if the whole nest of traitors would step out of politics."

Travel was not a simple matter in the early 1900's. In a letter to Donald from George dated Swift Current 04 April 1901 he says: "You want to know about the road from Long Lake to the Elbow. You will find a good beaten trail from the Mission to the end of the lake. From the north end of the lake to Finsbury there is also a trail. From Finsbury to the Elbow there is no trail, distance about 30 miles. Slightly rolling prairie, nothing to stop one from making a B line. If you keep too far south you will strike the Sand Hills, and if you strike too far north you will strike the trail from Saskatoon to Swift Current. You would require a pocket compass as the weather may be smokey or cloudy. From the Elbow to this place there is a beaten trail. You will have no trouble to find your way up here. Look out for stray horses. I would like to hear about 2 black mares, one has my brand, the other has the Oxarart brand ^I^. A young stallion may be with them branded A.B. My Donald has a leather shirt ready to send to Donald James."

There is nothing in George's or Donald's letters saying just when, or if, Donald ever visited him. George apparently did take horses down to Donald's area. In Donald's letter to their sister Janet Muckle on 28 January 1900, he says: "I am sorry to say that while I received a letter from George of Swift Current dated 11th of this month it is only a business scribble about horses he sold to me when he was down here two years ago. Some of them strayed from the parties who owned them & have turned up in his locality. He is quite well, family same, has 80 head of horses, own raising. Intends coming here next spring to sell them or exchange for cattle. Will be glad to see him & will have him write you or go down to pay you a visit."

We know that George died on 13 December 1901, two days after his 68th birthday. It would appear that George's sons did not do well with the ranch stock after he died. In letters from William Gunn to his brother Donald from 1906 to 1916 he talks of Donald and William J., George's sons, as having less and less stock and "not doing anything worthwhile". In spite of the criticism of their Uncle William, Amy Johnstone of Shaunavon said that Donald and William both turned out to be good reliable men.

Rangeland search lasted five days 1954

SHAUNAVON (Special)—A five day search of the rough, hilly rangeland south of Shaunavon, 240 miles southwest of Regina ended late Friday with the discovery of the body of 78-year-old Donald Edward Gunn in a field a scant 3½ miles from his home.

The elderly rancher had been missing from his home on the Gunn ranch, 20 miles south of here, since sometime between Oct. 28 and Oct. 31, and had been the object of an intense search by his friends and neighbors, directed by RCMP officers.

A nephew, James Gunn, found his uncle's body lying face down partly under a fence ½ mile from the home of a neighbor, Joe White, late Friday afternoon. He apparently had died of exposure.

RCMP said Sunday that no inquest into his death would be held.

The dead man had resided with a brother William on the Shaunavon district ranch and disappeared while his brother was away from home between Oct. 28 and Oct. 31.

On his return to the ranch William Gunn became alarmed when he could not locate the man and notified RCMP at Shaunavon who organized a search.

Riders on horseback scoured the rough hilly country for five days within a radius of 15 miles without locating him. Others searched the country on foot, while Cpl. M. W. McElman and pilot G. S. Albulets flew over the area in the latter's small plane.

At times more than 50 friends and neighbors joined in the search for the missing rancher.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Gunn, who is survived by his brother William, had not been completed Sunday.

Prov. Nov 8/54

MAN FOUND DEAD

SHAUNAVON, Sask. — Hunted five days in an extensive air and ground search, 78-year-old Edward Gunn was found dead in hill country 20 miles south of Shaunavon. He apparently died of exposure.

(Donald Edward)

Pioneer 1958 dies at 86

MAPLE CREEK (Special) — Funeral service was held here recently for Mrs. Gabriel Leveille, 86, pioneer in Saskatchewan.

Born in Fort Garry in 1872, her father, George Gunn, was a trader and freighter who operated a ferry service and freighted supplies on the Saskatchewan River during the Reil rebellion.

Mrs. Leveille came west with her parents to the Maple Creek area in 1882 where her father operated a shingle mill in what is now the Cypress Hills park. Later the family moved to the Swift Current district and started a horse ranch near the present site of Duncairn Dam.

Mrs. Leveille married Gabriel Leveille, an ex-RCMP scout and trader, in 1890, and they settled near the Gunn ranch on Swift Current Creek. Living there until 1914, they then returned and homesteaded in the Cypress Park area until moving to Maple Creek to live with their daughter, Mrs. L. Sinclair, in 1957.

Predeceased by her husband in January, 1959, she is survived by four sons; George, Joe, Eddie and Louis, all of Maple Creek; two daughters, Mrs. M. Lasante and Mrs. L. Sinclair, both of Maple Creek; a brother, William Gunn, of Shaunavon; 16 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Leveille was predeceased by a sister, Catherine, and a brother, Donald.

*****

This line continues in 2025 - three of George Gunn's children (Nancy, Donald Edward, Catherine) had a combined 14 children.

Chapter Ten – Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain seventh child Jane

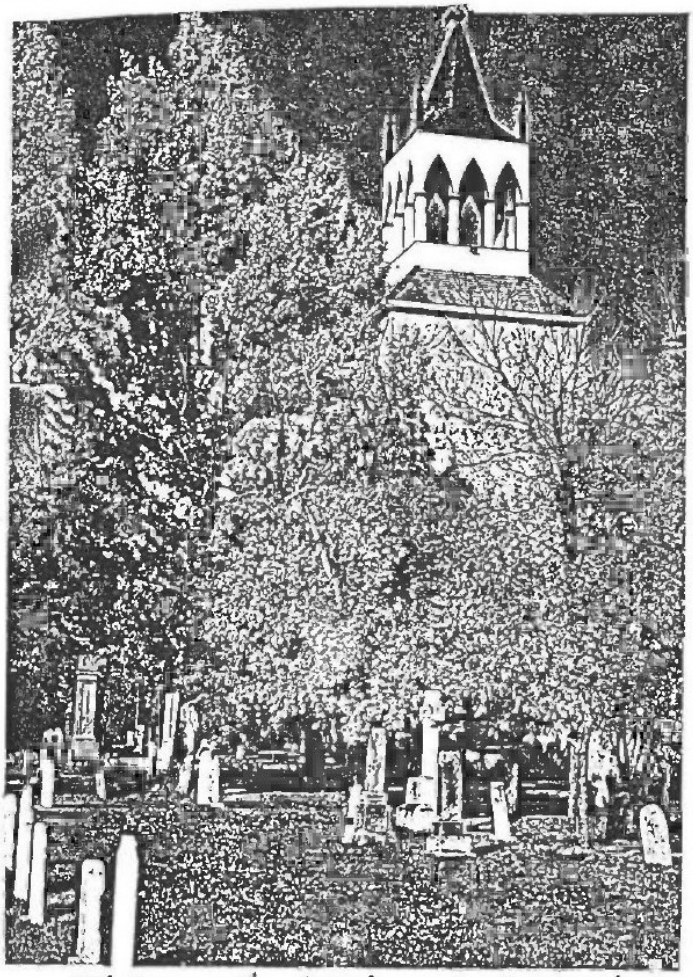
CHAPTER TEN

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

SEVENTH CHILD

JANE

The seventh child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was Jane. She was born 24 November 1835 and baptised 02 January 1836 at St. John's Church. According to the entry in the family bible she died 01 October 1844. A burial record lists her as being buried at St. John's Anglican Church cemetery on 09 November 1843. The date in the family bible is probably right but the other date is included here for reference.



ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Chapter Eleven - Donald Gunn / Margaret Gunn eighth child Margaret

CHAPTER ELEVEN

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

EIGHTH CHILD

MARGARET

The eighth child was Margaret Gunn. She was born on 06 April 1838 and baptised on 15 May 1838 at St. John's Anglican Church. She married William Taylor on 19 February 1856 at Kildonan Church. He was born in 1831 and died in 1868. Margaret and William had three sons and three daughters. Their first born, Eliza Mary (Lizzie) Taylor was born in 1857 and married her cousin Benjamin MacKenzie Gunn (son of Alexander (Sandy) Gunn and Angelique Mackenzie). They had three sons and two daughters: Benjamin McKenzie Gunn, Norah, William, Mabel and Alexander.

The second child of Margaret Gunn and William Taylor was a son George Taylor, born in 1858, who married Clara Bremner. The third born was Margaret Taylor, born 1860, who was married first to Andrew Finley and then Henry Gillis.

The fourth born was William Taylor who was born in 1862 and died in 1949. He married Margaret Jane Bremner who was born in 1863 and died in 1920. The last two children of Margaret Gunn and William Taylor were Jane, born in 1864, and Donald Herbert Taylor born in 1868 and who died in 1955.

In the 1870 census Margaret Taylor was shown as living on Lot 59 in Poplar Point, Manitoba. In 1883 Margaret married Jack Drain at Poplar Point. It would seem that they had three daughters. In letters from Janet Muckle to Donald she would mention their sister but no family news except for her letter of 20 March 1894 when she said: "I have not had a visit from Margaret since I was up to see her last April altho' she promised to come last fall, but I will write and try to stir her up. She was always rather timid and now with her happy home, three girls, and Jack getting older looking than she is, she does not care to stir out. Jack is getting grey fast and Margaret is looking as young as ever."

In a letter Donald wrote to his sister Janet Muckle dated 11 May 1899, answering one of hers, he mentions Margaret: "I was very sorry to hear such bad news about poor Margaret. I did not think that Jack would make such a fool of himself. They seemed to be getting along so nicely when I was there. She has two such nice daughters. They seemed to be so thrifty & everything around the place looked prosperous-a fine crop & a comfortable home. I did not see her eldest daughter by Drain. She was in Dakota." On 29 October 1899 Janet writes to Donald and says: "Our sister

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. GS 1-8

NAME	MARGARET GUNN	SPOUSE WILLIAM TAYLOR	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	06 APRIL 1838 ST. ANDREW'S, MAN.	1832	FAMILY BIBLE LISTS ALL BIRTHS AS 'R.R.S.
Marriage/Place	19 FEBRUARY 1856 KILDONAN CHURCH		1870 CENSUS MARGARET LIVING POPLAR POINT, MAN.
Death/Buried		1868	
Occupation			
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses	JACK DRAIN 1883 - POPLAR POINT		
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN		

	sex	children	birthdate / place	marriage date / spouse's name	death date / place
1	F	ELIZA MARY TAYLOR	1857	20 FEB 1878 BENJAMIN McKENZIE GUNN	
2	m	GEORGE TAYLOR	1858	CLARA BREMNER	1927
3	F	MARGARET TAYLOR	1860	1. ANDREW FINLEY 2. HENRY GILLIS	
4	m	WILLIAM TAYLOR	1862	MARGARET JANE BREMNER	1949
5	F	JANE TAYLOR	1864	HUSBAND DIED 1894	
6	m	DONALD TAYLOR	1867 OR 1868		1955
7					
8					
9					
10					

Margaret lives with her daughter Maggie, Mrs. Gillies, who is a Poplar Point."

On 14 January 1900 Janet wrote another letter to her brothe and in it wrote that his daughter Minnie, who was staying with her, had been very ill with measles as had Janet's daughter Let and Janet had been very busy nursing them both. She went on to say "Margaret came to us on the 6th December. When Leta and Min got sick on the 3rd..they were very sick and Min only today fee all right and is asking for food. She is very strong and health but was like a baby when sick. Margaret slept with Min to keep the clothes on, and I slept with Leta for same reason. If Margaret had not been here I should have had to hire someone to help. I have 9 cows to milk twice a day and a large house & family to look after. Margaret is going home in ten days." That is the last mention made of Margaret.

*****

This Margaret Gunn 1838 – 1881 / William Taylor 1832 – 1868 line continues in 2025.

The two main lines are from Elizabeth Taylor 1857 – 1920 (Elizabeth Gunn more accurately, see Joyce Anaka's narrative) who married Benjamin Gunn 1855 - 1930 and from George Taylor (1858 – 1929).

Chapter Twelve - Donald Gunn / Margaret Gunn ninth child Donald

CHAPTER TWELVE

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

NINTH CHILD

DONALD

The ninth child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was given his father's name, Donald, but was called "Doul" by many in the family. (With all the "Donalds" around, one can see why!). He was born in St. Andrew's parish on 27 May 1840 and baptised at St. John's Anglican Church on 10 June 1840. He married Caroline Ballenden (also at times spelt Ballendine), who was born on 07 August 1846 and baptised on 06 September, daughter of James Ballenden and Francoise (Fanny) Lewis. In St. John's marriages 1820-1835 (225) it is listed that James Ballendin, RRS, married Fanny Le Lewis, RRS, 08 December 1831. Under St. Andrew's marriages 1860-1883 (356) it lists a C. Ballendine married at St. Andrew's 1865 which could be the marriage date of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden. Francoise also listed as Frances Lee Lewes.

In the census of 1870 Donald Gunn and Caroline were living on Lot 109 in the parish of St. Andrew's (his father Donald had both Lot 109 & 108). There is a mention of 'Spring Farms' in Twp. 14, Range 4 East in an Indenture dated 14 January 1874 between Donald Gunn Senior of St. Andrew's and Donald Gunn of the above-mentioned Spring Farms. For $100.00 paid by Junior to Senior there was land deeded to Junior in St. Andrew's North. It was described as "Bounded on East by present great highway having frontage of 2 1/2 chains thereon. And on South & West by land of Donald Gunn Senior and on North by land deeded to George Gunn. Said parcel or tract to contain one quarter of an acre". It was "signed, sealed & duly delivered in presence of witnesses on this thirteenth day of November 1874.

Caroline Ballenden had, through her brother Robert, who lived on their late father's Lot 66, a claim on that lot. It had been sold to Eleanor Kennedy, widow of Captain Kennedy, just prior to Robert's death and for Mrs. Kennedy to get title to the property Caroline had to sign a Quit Claim. This was in 1895. Caroline had already died so it was necessary for all her children to sign, relinquishing their right to the property. By then, most of them were no longer at home so Donald had to get the papers signed by them and notarized. As you can imagine it was not easy. Then Mrs. Kennedy lost the first Quit Claim Donald sent her! Finally in a letter dated Devil's Lake P.O. Assa. January 6th, 1902 Donald writes: "Dear Mrs. Kennedy: Have today written to J.M.Sutherland with regard to Quit Claim Deed, requesting him to hand it over to you or your lawyer on receipt from you of Lien Note for $25.00 to be paid when the sale of said lot is

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S1-9A

NAME	DONALD GUNN	SPOUSE CAROLINE BALLENDINE	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	RED RIVER SETTLEMENT	PLACE NAMES - 'ST. ANDREW'S', 'LITTLE BRITAIN', 'R.R.S.' WERE OFTEN USED FOR THE SAME LOCATION.
Marriage/Place	1865 OR 1867 ST. ANDREW'S		
Death/Buried	26 MARCH 1937 YORKTON, SK	UNCONFIRMED 1878 LITTLE BRITAIN, MB.	'PLACE NAMES OF MANITOBA' BY PEGGY HAM SAYS LOCKPORT WAS KNOWN AS 'LITTLE BRITAIN' & 'ST. ANDREW'S NORTH' BEFORE BECOMING 'LOCKPORT' IN 1902. ASSA. ALSO USED 'SASK' FOR N.W.T.
Occupation	TRADER/RANCHER		
Religion	PROTESTANT - PRESBYTERIAN	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses	SARAH (FIDLER) BIRD 17 OCTOBER 1881		
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN / MARGARET SWAIN	JAMES BALLENDINE / FRANCOIS LEWIS (FRANCES LEE LEWES - ALSO SPELT)	

	sex	children	birthdate / place	marriage date / spouse's name	death date / place
1	M	DONALD JAMES GUNN	10 JULY 1868 / ST. ANDREW'S MANITOBA	12 NOV 1907 PREECEVILLE, SK. / MARY ELLEN CARRAGHER	14 MARCH 1917 / LINTLAW, SK. AREA
2	M	GEORGE GUNN	15 JULY 1870 / ST. ANDREW'S MANITOBA	31 OCT 1891 YORKTON, SK. AREA / JANE ANDEMAA	10 OCTOBER 1943 / PREECEVILLE, SK.
3	F	ANNABELLE ELLEN GUNN	20 JULY 1872 / LITTLE BRITAIN, MANITOBA	21 JULY 1891 SALTCOATS, SK / ARTHUR WHITE	29 JULY 1959 / PREECEVILLE, SK.
4	M	WILLIAM HENRY GUNN	28 JULY 1874 / LITTLE BRITAIN, MANITOBA	UNMARRIED / KNOWN AS 'HARRY'	04 SEPTEMBER 1906 / CANORA AREA - BURIED CANORA, S
5	F	MARGARET FRANCES GUNN	14 JULY 1876 / LITTLE BRITAIN, MANITOBA	29 DECEMBER 1896 YORKTON SK / JOHN WILLIAM PARK	26 AUGUST 1964 / PREECEVILLE, SK.
6		BABY - UNNAMED - DIED AT BIRTH	1878 / LITTLE BRITAIN, MB		
7					
8		FOR CHILDREN OF			
9		2ND MARRIAGE SEE	G/S1-9B		
10					

completed." An earlier letter had mentioned how much time and trouble all this was costing him!

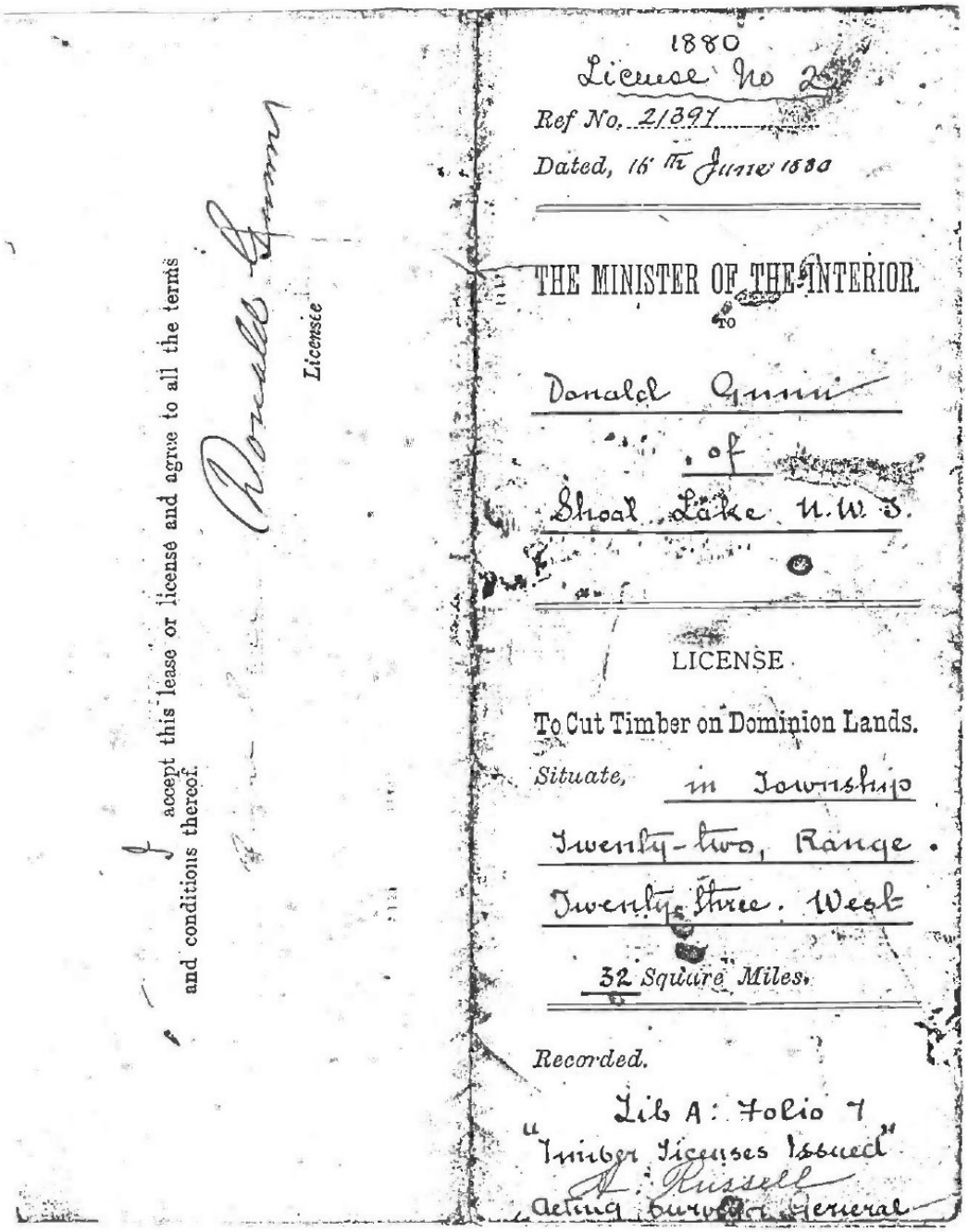
Donald later lived at Fort Qu'Appelle and while there he was given a Land Grant dated 03 February 1887, that gave him, and his heirs, part of the Outer Two Miles or Hay Land "appertaining to the Parish of St. Andrews in the Province of Manitoba". It was described as: "Park Lot lettered H.h.h., as shown on the map or plan of the survey of the said Outer Two Miles or Hay Land, dated 1st July, 1877... containing by measurement Eleven and four-tenths acres, more or less". The grant reserved "thereout all 'travelled roads' crossing the same, existing as such on the 15th day of July, 1870, which, by and under the laws of Assiniboia, were or may be held to be legally 'Public highways'."

The same year of the land grant (1887) Donald moved to the south shore of Devil's Lake also known as Spirit Lake and eventually as Good Spirit Provincial Park. When the land was surveyed, after Donald settled there, he was on the north half of Section 9, Twp. 29, Range 5, W.2nd bordering the south shore of the lake. Here he died on 26 March 1927. Caroline had died in 1878 leaving five young children ages two to ten.

Donald went to western Manitoba with his brother George in 1879 to operate a sawmill in the Riding Mountains. No doubt all the children were left with relatives at Little Britain (St. Andrew's parish). There is a notation that Donald J. & George were living with their Uncle William in 1880. They were the two eldest and at ages 12 and 10 could help on the farm. It is not known where the two girls and younger boy stayed.

As mentioned, Donald went into the lumbering business. He obtained a Timber Lease for the year 1880 covering almost all of Township Twenty-two, Range Twenty three West, listed as 32 square miles. It covered an area now part of Riding Mountain National Park. In fact on the present maps of the area there is still a Gunn Lake. Donald and his brother George brought the logs down the Birdtail Creek where their sawing operation was located. This is north of Rossburn, Manitoba. They also ran a trading post. In a statement from The Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Ellice dated 20th May 1880 "Messrs. George & Donald Gunn" are billed for a large variety of trade goods, food, clothing, gunpowder, tobacco, etc. amounting to $190.52 between 19 November 1879 and May 1880. Most of it was paid off in lumber from their mill.

Some of their ledger entries refer to slabs, rough edge lumber, planks, dimension lumber, tamarac plank, wagon reach, ladder pole, etc. Donald also kept a paid-up Promissary note dated 01 May 1881 that George, his brother, had signed on behalf of "George & Donald Gunn of Rossburn" for A. Harris, Son & Co. of Winnipeg for $80.00 (interest 7% per annum) for a "Shingle Machine". They paid $73.85 on 18 July 1881 and the final $6.00 on 22 September. (They must have got a fifteen cent discount!). It



1880

License No 2

Ref No. 21391

Dated, 16th June 1880

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

To

Donald Gunn

of

Shoal Lake N.W.T.

LICENSE

To Cut Timber on Dominion Lands.

Situate, in Township Twenty-two, Range Twenty-three. West

32 Square Miles.

Recorded.

Lib A: Folio 7

"Timber Licenses Issued"

A. Russell

Acting Surveyor General

I accept this lease or license and agree to all the terms and conditions thereof.

Donald Gunn

Licensee

LICENSE TO CUT TIMBER ON DOMINION LANDS

—:o:—

Know all Men by these Presents, that by virtue of the authority vested in me by sub-section 10 of section 52, of the Act 42nd Victoria, Chapter 31, and by an order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council of the Fifteenth day of May 1880

I, The Right Honorable Sir John Alexander Macdonald K.C.B.

the Minister of the Interior of Canada, do hereby in consideration of the sum of One hundred and sixty dollars

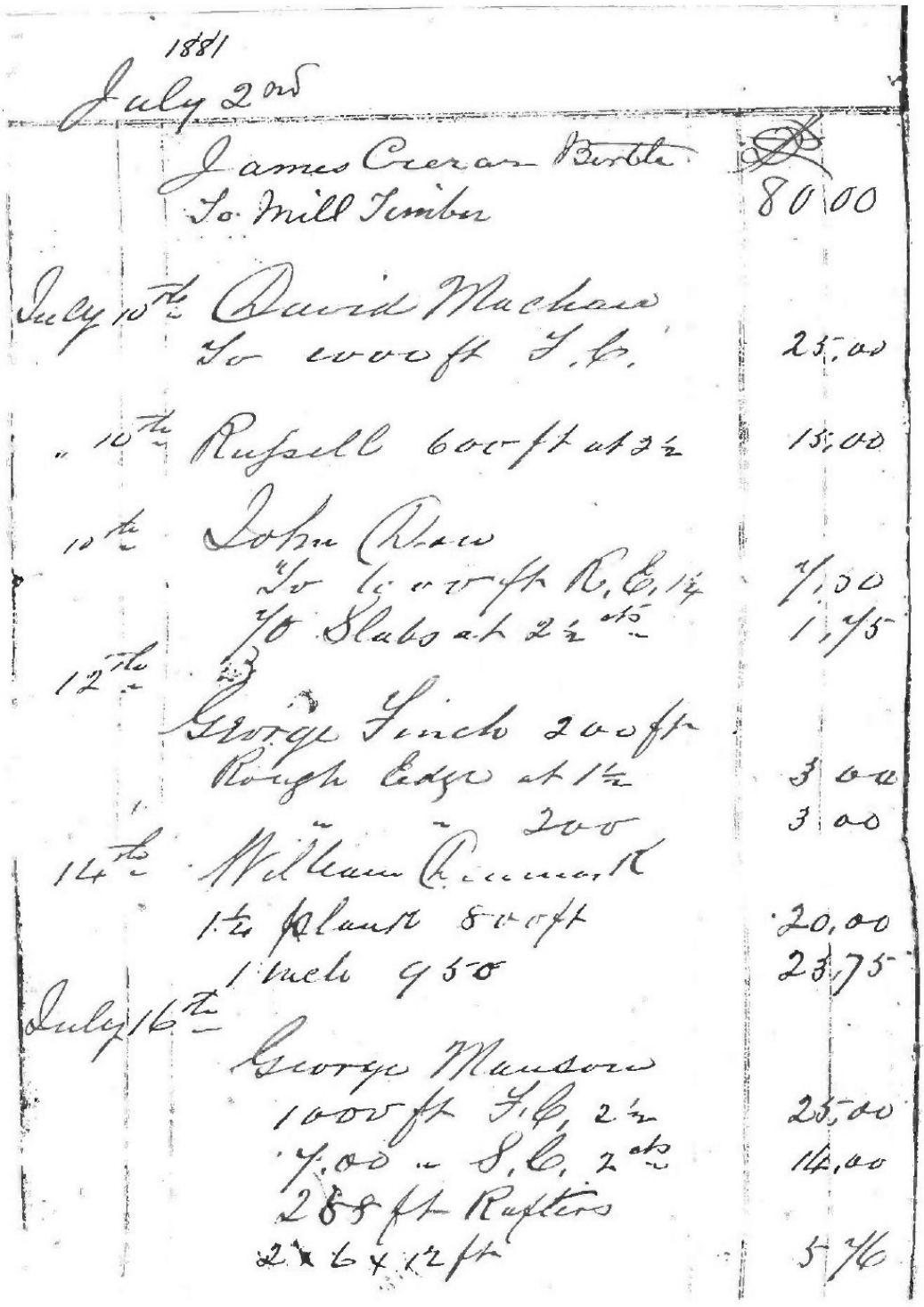
ground rent now paid to me for the use of Her Majesty, and in consideration of the royalty hereinafter mentioned give unto

Donald Gunn of Shoal Lake in the North West Territory, Lumberman

hereinafter called the licensee his executors and administrators, full right, power and license, subject to the conditions and restrictions hereinafter mentioned and contained to cut all timber on the following tract of land, (hereinafter called the "limit" or "limits"), that is to say:—

Sections one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, nine, ten, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, in Township twenty-two, Range twenty three West; Containing thirty-two square miles more or less.

PAGE 48-B



1881

July 2nd

James Cregan Bonbo
To Mill Timber 80 00

July 10th David Mackay
To 6000 ft S.B. 25.00

" 10th Rufsell 600 ft at 2½ 15.00

10th John Rae
To 400 ft R.C. 1¼ 1.00
To Slabs at 2½ cts 1.25

12th
George Finch 200 ft
Rough Edge at 1½ 3 00
" " 200 3 00

14th William Cunnack
1½ Plank 800 ft 20.00
1 inch 950 23.75

July 16th
George Manson
1000 ft S.B. 2½ 25.00
7.00 " S.B. 2 cts 14.00
288 ft Rafters
2 x 6 x 12 ft 5 76

is not known if the machine was used on the Birdtail or whether George took it with him when he went to the Cypress Hills area in 1882. The obituary for George's daughter Nancy mentions her father operated a shingle mill in what is now the Cypress Hills Park before the family moved to the Swift Current district and started a horse ranch near the site of the Duncairn Dam. The partnership betweem Donald & George was dissolved in 1881 and Donald returned to St. Andrew's.

Donald also kept a Liquor Permit..North-West Territories that was dated Battleford 8th July 1881. It read: "Within four months from date, Mr. Donald Gunn of Rossburn P.O. is permitted to take into and have in his possession in the North-West Territories, Four Gallons Whisky for Medicinal purposes." It was signed by the Lieutenant-Governor for the N.W.T., David Laird, and certified by a Secretary. It is endorsed across the front with these words: "1 Gal passed, 29th August 1881" and signed by W.Pircey or Piery, Sgt, N.W.M.P. One wonders what his older brother John would have thought of Donald's whisky. In John's obituary he was referred to as "a vigorous temperance worker".

Donald Gunn and Caroline had three sons and two daughters. The first born, a son, was named Donald James when he was born 10 July 1868. He moved with his father to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1882 and then to Devil's Lake.

Donald James seems to have taken after his Uncle George for he was involved in a number of activities, among them raising and selling horses. In a letter to his father dated Dauphin (Manitoba) 14 September 1898 he writes: "Dear Father, we have reached the great Dauphin town. It is a great town about twice as big as Yorkton. We had quite a time coming over the mountain." (Note: his father mentioned in a note to his daughter Minnie the same week that 'Donald sold 15 head of horses at Strathclair at $85.00 per head. He expects to be back in three weeks' so he had probably come from Strathclair to Dauphin).

Getting to Dauphin had not been easy. Donald's letter to his father continues: "We broke the front axle of the waggon about 15 miles from here. That was on Friday. It rained on Saturday. I went back on Sunday for the waggon. There was one bridge gone and I pretty near had to swim the Vermillion River. I would not live in this country for the best farm in it! They have great crops. They say that wheat will go from 35 to 85 bus. to the acre. There was seven outfits pulled out of Dauphin on Monday to trash. You can hear them on every side. Wheat is only fetching 45 cts. We are camped three miles out of town at Tom Iredales-a brother of Albert's. We keep the horses in his pasture and run them into town every afternoon. We have run them in six days and have sold one a day. I sold a team to Joe Inkster for a hundred and seventy. He used to be a Poplar Point man. I saw a man named Lyons, he used to be in the Portage. There seems to be a lot of Poplar Point and Portage men around here."

On September 16th Donald adds a note before mailing the letter to his father saying he had sold a team "yesterday and a team the day before". He also tells his father on the 18th that "we expect to pull out of here Thursday (22nd). We will have cattle with us so it will be about the 5th or 6th before we get to Yorkton. If you answer this, address to Langenburg."

Donald James Gunn continued to be an active man. He worked on a crew surveying for the railroad N.W. of Canora. He also in the early 1900's worked out of Wadena as Government Land Guide locating homesteads in that area and the Kelvington and Lintlaw areas. Some of his experiences while on the survey crew were related to his father in letters. One, dated 08 June 1902, from Iron Spring Creek reads as follows:

"We are camped a little west of the crossing of the railway trail. We move about ten miles east tomorrow then I go to Milligan's for the mail. The creeks are very high. Iron Spring comes in the waggon box in the shallowest place. It is running over the banks. We have had hard lugging since we left Humbolt. We only made 10 miles since last Sunday. It took the whole gang six hours to move the outfit one mile and a half, it rains every day. If it is like this ahead we are going to get another team. We will need one from Fishing Lake through as we are going north of Stonewall close to the lake. We are running north of the try line three miles now. We left the try line at the forks of the Batoche & Clarks Crossing Trails & will not touch it till we get to between Hains & Williams on Crooked Hill Creek. We will cross the Devils Creek about the olde Village north of the Touchwood Trail. We have been as far as four and a half miles from the try line. There is 22 miles of a straight line out of Humbolt, the longest stretch the C.N.R. have up to date."

He concludes the letter by saying: "Beattie is subdividing round Dead Moose Lake. He has Charlie Blackie and four other fellows from Touchwood with him. I expect to hear from you when I get to Fishing Lake and will finish this letter there. We expect Burns is coming to meet us but we are not certain yet. If he is we will quit north of Fishing Lake. In that case we will be home by the first of July."

From Fishing Lake on the 12 June, 1902 he adds "I got here last night. It took me two days to come from camp. There is seven creeks between here and camp that all come in the waggon box. Two you have to swim. I had to tie my box down. The water wet me sitting on the seat. I am taking another team back, one of Boles. I met an outfit from Neepewa about four miles from here. They are going to Carrot River. They have eight teams and are having a pretty hard time. They have been three weeks on the road from Yorkton."

In 1906 Donald homesteaded on N.W. 30-36-9 W2nd, a few miles east of Nut Mountain, Saskatchewan, where that winter he started a sawmill and sawed lumber, including enough to build his own

WEDDING PICTURE DONALD JAMES GUNN/MARY CARRAGHER
12 NOVEMBER 1907

Mrs Mary Ellen Gunn, 84 years, Lintlaw pioneer resident, buried

Mrs. Mary Ellen Gunn of Kelvington, formerly of Lintlaw, died in Sherwood Nursing Home in Saskatoon on Wednesday, December 9, 1970, at the age of 84 years.

Funeral service was held on December 12, in St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church at Lintlaw, with Rev. Father L. Panek officiating. Beaton's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers were Welby McCubbin, Harold Sundberg, George Weinhandl, John Murrison, Leo Weinhandl and Leonard Weinhandl, all of Lintlaw.

Mrs. Gunn was born at Bowdel, South Dakota, on September 8, 1886, and came to Canada with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. Carragher, in 1892. They resided at Good Spirit Lake, north of Yorkton. She was educated in White Sand and Yorkton schools.

In 1900 they moved to the location where the town of Sturgis now stands.

On November 12, 1907, she married Donald James Gunn and moved to his homestead northwest of Lintlaw. She resided in the Lintlaw district until 1964 when she moved to Kelvington with her son and daughter, Donald and Viola Gunn.

She entered the Kelvington Hospital with a broken leg on March 20, 1970, and was moved on July 29 to Sherwood Nursing Home where she remained until her passing.

Mrs. Gunn was predeceased by one son, James, on June 17, 1912, and her husband, Donald J. Gunn, on March 17, 1917. She leaves to mourn her death, two daughters, Miss Viola Gunn of Kelvington and Mrs. Caroline Enright of Lintlaw; two sons, Owen of Lintlaw and Donald of Kelvington; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

house. He was married on 12 November 1907 to Mary Ellen Carragher who, a daughter of Owen (Pat) Carragher and his wife Augusta, was born on 03 September 1886 at Bowdel, South Dakota. The Carraghers had been neighbours of the Gunns on section 9, twp 29, range 5, W.2nd. in the 1890's before moving to the present site of Sturgis, Sask.

Donald and Mary lived on Donald's homestead during the summers and operated the sawmill at various locations during the winters for seven years. They left the homestead in 1914 and moved to their sawmill site on the south shore of Stove Lake and continued lumbering. Donald and Mary had three sons, one of whom, James, died in infancy, and two daughters--Owen Glenlyon Gunn; Ellen Viola; James; Augusta Caroline (Gunn) Enright and Donald James Gunn, named for his father. Mary was left a widow when Donald died on 14 March 1917, less than a year after the birth of their last child. Mary and her children in the spring of 1924 moved about seven miles to S.E. 3-37-9 W2nd to be nearer to a school (Nut Mountain, later known as Woodstone School). Mary died in the Sherwood Nursing Home in Saskatoon on 09 December 1970.

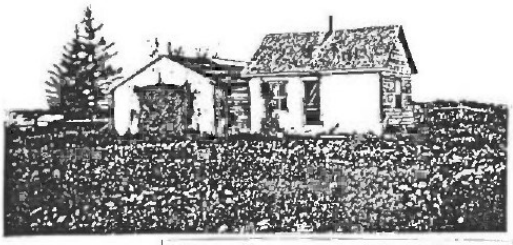
The second child of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden was George, born 15 July 1870 in St. Andrew's parish, Manitoba. He married Jane Ahdemar, daughter of William Ahdemar and Elizabeth Fidler, on 31 October 1891. It is interesting to note that when George's father remarried, he married Sarah Fidler who was a distant cousin of Jane's mother. George and Jane lived at first near Good Spirit Lake. They lived at one time in the hills not far from the Whites and Parks'.

In a letter of January 1898 Donald says that "George is stopping up near Whites in his old place". In a letter of January 1899 he mentions that "George & his family are staying here with me in my old house. Donald & Malonek, myself, Harry & Johnie & one Alfred Hawley stay in the new house together-do our own cooking etc. We are not at all lonesome & we are living like the Lords of the Creation". A letter the same week written by the above-mentioned 'Johnie' to his sister Minnie said that "George & family are still staying in the old house and Donald & Malonek are staying at George's old place in the sand hills. Jane makes our bread and washes for us."

George and Jane also lived at Touchwood Hills but most of their married life was spent on their farm south of Preeceville, Saskatchwan where they raised their six sons and two daughters. Both George and Jane (Jennie) died in 1943. She on 13 January and he on 10 October.

George applied for his Homestead Patent 20 October 1909 on N.W. 1/4 Sec.4 Twp.37 Range 5 West of 2nd Meridian. He gave his occupation as farming and his address as Whitehawk. He listed that he had obtained his homestead entry on 30 September 1902, built his house in April 1903 and commenced living in it in May

GEORGE & JANE GUNN HOME
PREECEVILLE, SASK.



JANE GUNN

JANE GUNN

GEORGE GUNN

Celebrates Golden Wedding

Paper Nov 5/49

On Friday, October 31st, over sixty friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Gunn, four miles south of Preeceville at a surprise party, on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. A short program was enjoyed during which Mr. W.H. Turrell presented the honored couple with a silver purse from their many friends.

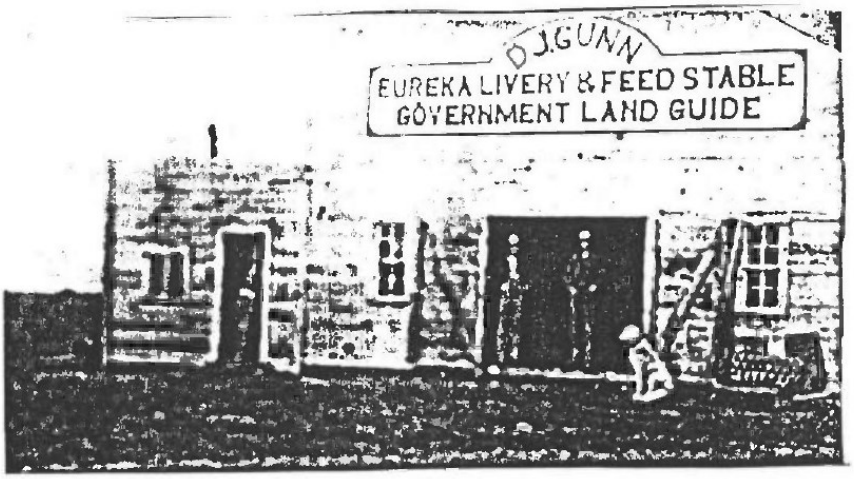
Mr. and Mrs. Gunn were married on the White Sand River, north of Ebenezer on Oct. 31st, 1891, and were among the first settlers in this part of the province They were both born near Selkirk, Man., Mrs. Gunn in 1868 and Mr. Gunn in 1870. They came west in 1891, and in 1907 moved to the homestead in the Preeceville district where they still reside.

Mr. Gunn took an active part in the Riel Rebellion of 1885, and has many interesting stories to tell of pioneering in the west.

This couple is a splendid example of empire builders, and wherever they go they receive the respect of all Canadians.

This union was blessed with two girls and six boys, of whom three boys served in the Great War.

DONALD JAMES GUNN



1904. He also said he had lived on the land from May 1904 to July 15, 1905 and from 02 August 1906 he had lived on it continually.

From 15 July 1905 to August 1906 he stated he was at Wadena, Saskatchewan "in the livery business". He was working with his nephew Donald at that time. On his homestead in 1906 he broke six acres and seven in 1907. In 1908 he broke another 10 acres and was able to seed 13 in total. The following year another 10 were broken and seeded. He had, he says, "horses each year. Have now 4 horses and 38 head of cows". He listed his buildings as a log house 16x24 feet, with a sod roof, and two log stables, 17x25 and 18x30. He also listed a hen house, dairy, grainery and calf stable. He was issued the patent for the land 21 March 1910.

George Gunn and Jane Ahdemar had a son, William Donald, as their first-born. He was born on 09 May 1892 and died 10 November 1928. He was unmarried as was their second son Frank Alexander Gunn born 09 August 1893. Frank, after service overseas in W.W.I, spent the latter part of his life living in Springside, Saskatchewan and near Good Spirit Lake. He died in the Veteran's section of Wascana Hospital, Regina, Saskatchewan, on 29 August 1978 and was buried in the Preeceville cemetery.

The next child of George Gunn and Jane Ahdemar was Agnes Eunice Gunn who was born, like her brothers before her, in the Good Spirit Lake area of Saskatchewan. She was born on 31 March 1895. She attended business school in Yorkton and worked there for a number of years before moving to Calgary. Here she met and married Harold Robert Milner Potter who was born 13 February 1894 and died 29 April 1956 in Vancouver, British Columbia where he and Agnes had lived for most of their married life. They had no children.

Agnes was interested in family history and did much of the preliminary research on the Gunns. She kept telling me that, as she was the oldest grandaughter of Donald and I was the youngest, we should be interested in the Gunn history. I was fortunate that, in addition to having information she sent me over the years, when she died she left me the rest of the material she had gathered. After the death of her husband she lived for a number of years in various places in the Vancouver area before she moved back to Saskatchewan. She spent her later years living mainly in Yorkton, Preeceville and Sturgis. She suffered a stroke in 1983 and died on 18 September at the Canora hospital. She was buried in the Preeceville cemetery.

The fourth child of George Gunn and Jane Adhemar was George Arthur Gunn, known as Arthur. He was born 19 February 1897 in the Good Spirit Lake area and died on 01 June 1950. He was unmarried.

The next child was also a son, John Montgomery (Monty) Gunn who was born 03 September 1898 also in the Good Spirit Lake area. He too served overseas in W.W.I. and in February 1922 married Marjorie Hingley of Lintlaw, Saskatchewan, at Preeceville,

Mrs. Geo. Gunn Laid to Rest

Jan 20 issue 1943

The death of Mrs. George Gunn occured on January 13th, 1943, at her farm home in the Preeceville district, after an illness of over 3 years. She was 74 years old.

Deceased was born at Selkirk, Man., on July 14, 1868. She moved to the Yorkton district in 1891, and in the same year married Geo. Gunn. They moved to the Preeceville district in 1907, where they have resided ever since.

Funeral services were held on Monday from the Preeceville United Church, with Rev. H. Hargreaves officiating, and in spite of the severe weather many friends were present to pay their last respects to a kind friend. Interment took place at the United Church Cemetery. The pallbearers were:- H. Mitchell, C. Lindbloom, H. Swan and S. Beech.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Gunn leaves to mourn her loss:- two daughters, Mrs. H.E. Potter of Vancouver, and Phyliss of Preeceville; five sons, Frank of Springside, Arthur, Montgomery, and Richard all of Vancouver, and Henry of Preeceville. One son, William, pre-deceased her several years ago.

Relatives from a distance to attend the funeral were Mrs. Thomas Johnston and Alex. Ahdemar of LeRoss; M. Gunn, R.C.A.F. of Calgary; J. M. Gunn of Vancouver and Frank Gunn of Springside.

PIONEER FARMER PASSES AT PREECEVILLE

Oct. 19, 1943

The funeral of Mr. George Gunn was held from Preeceville United Church on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock with Rev. G. E. Ahmack officiating. Mr. Gunn passed away at his farm residence at 12.40 Monday morning after an illness of several weeks.

George Gunn was the second son of the late Donald F. Gunn of Devil's Lake, Sask., and grandson of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, M.P., Manitoba, and was born at Selkirk, Man., on July 15, 1870. He farmed in the Preeceville district for over 40 years, and was well liked in the community.

He is survived by five sons, Frank A., Springside, G. Arthur and J. Montgomery of Vancouver, Henry J., at home, R. Douglas, Vancouver Island, and two daughters, Mrs. Harold R. Potter, Vancouver, and Phyllis M., at home. He was predeceased by his wife in January of this year, and eldest son, William D. Gunn, in November, 1928.

Pallbearers were Alex Clark, Olaf Reitlo, Harold Mitchell, Henry Tetlock, Robert Duguid and J. W. Park. An escort of members of the Legion veterans of the first World War were represented by Robt. Scharfenberg, Arnold Peterson, Emil Barstead, Ole Elleraas, Henry Swan, Emil Saugmyhr, Walter Downs and Sid Beech, and the present war was represented by Clayton Olson, R.C.N., Theus Godfrey, R.C.A.F., and Wm. Long, R.C.O.C.

Saskatchewan. They lived at Lintlaw for a brief time and in 1923 moved to British Columbia. They had a daughter, Doreen Marjorie Gunn that died in infancy, and two sons, Joseph Arthur Montgomery Gunn and Clifford Eugene. Their father Monty died at White Rock, British Columbia on 26 May 1978.

George and Jane were living at Touchwood Hills in the winter of 1899. George's father, Donald, wrote to his sister Janet Muckle on 28 January 1900 and said: "Letter from my George, Touchwood Hills, January 14th. His family were all very sick. He does not say what the trouble is but says that they were all on the recovery except the baby (Monty) & that he did not expect him to last long. He was such a nice baby boy. They had the measles last summer so that it must be colds or fever". Monty survived!

The sixth child of George Gunn and Jane Ahdemar was Henry James Gunn who was born 19 April 1900 at Touchwood Hills, Saskatchewan. Henry was the one who stayed on the home farm, first with his parents, and then on his own after 1943. Henry moved into Preeceville in his later years. He died in the Plains Health Center, Regina, Saskatchewan, on 31 January 1981. He was buried in the Preeceville cemetery. He was unmarried as was his brother Richard Douglas (known as Douglas) who was born 10 December 1902 in the Good Spirit Lake area and died in British Columbia 23 January 1966.

The youngest child in the George Gunn family was Phyllis Marjorie who was born 14 June 1913 at Preeceville. She eventually moved to Vancouver, British Columbia where she married Charles Henry Mills on 22 October 1947. They lived in Burnaby where Phyllis was still living in 1996. Charlie died in 1984. They had no children.

The third child of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden was Annabella Ellen (Nellie) Gunn. She was born at Little Britain, Manitoba on 20 July, 1872, moved with her father and step-mother to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1982, and then to Good Spirit Lake in 1887. She was married on 21 July 1891, at Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, to Arthur White. Arthur, in 1883, had come to the Balcarres district of Saskatchewan. He took out a homestead on N.E.1/4 Sec.20, Twp.21, R.11. Here he raised his cattle. The following year his mother and step-father, Josie and Robert Park, came to the same area. Josie's maiden name was Joslin. Among the Park children was John (Jack) Park who would in later years marry Nellie Gunn's sister Margaret.

In the drought years of the early 1890's Arthur White and Jack Park herded their cattle north to the Devils Lake, now Good Spirit Lake, area for summer pasture and to obtain extra hay. In 1893 the White family, and the Parks', moved to the sand hills at the lake approximately a mile east of Donald Gunn's home. Their buildings were located on S.E.1/4 Sec 15, Twp.29, R.5, W.2nd. The Whites moved from the hills just over ten years later and farmed for a time on the Whitesand River south of Canora, Saskatchewan

Leader-Post Regina Apr 6/57

White brothers raise beef and kill cattle-rustling bears

By JULIUS SIERY

WEEKES, Sask., (Special). — Saskatchewan may not be as well-known for its cattle raising as its wheat, but over the years George and Arthur White of Weekes and their mother have made a good living with their cattle ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur White, Sr., took out a homestead in the Canora district in 1906, but it wasn't long before they moved further north into the wild and unexplored area of the province.

Mr. and Mrs. White didn't immediately settle on what is now known as the White Bros., Pei Wei ranch, but farmed and raised cattle on an adjoining block of land.

They purchased their present location in 1910 from John Gooderich, who operated a trading post. They acquired it for $500.

The Dominion government took the ranch over in 1916 and incorporated it into the forestry reserve. Today it is controlled by the provincial government and has been leased to the White Bros., for a number of years. The ranch covers an area of approximately 20 square miles.

Traders Too

When they moved from the Canora district, the Whites had 100 head of cattle and 30 horses. At the time they undertook to supply the Red Deer Lumber company with meat and hay. The lumber company operated logging camps in a radius of 25 miles stretching from east of the present site of Reserve Junction to west of Weekes.

The job of supplying the lumber company was a hard one for the Whites. It meant supplying tons of hay and butchering as high as 87 head of cattle in the fall.

In addition, they did some trading with nearby Indians who made their living out of trapping. Two Indians who traded with the Whites in the early 1900s and still residing in the district are Joe Somay and Fred Mooso.

Sons Take Over

The two sons took over operation of the ranch in 1928 when their father died. Mrs. White, 78 years old now, is still active and does most of the housework herself.

However, she hasn't as much work to do nowadays as she did 30 or 40 years ago when lumberjacks used to make it a point to stop at the White residence for a meal. It was nothing unusual for Mrs. White to cook breakfast for 20 persons or more.

George and Arthur White haven't increased their number of cattle over the years. There are no horses on the ranch now, but there are still 100 or so Herefords.

Hay is plentiful in the area and the Whites usually stack 100 tons or more every summer. Only young calves are kept in barns during the winter. The others are kept in the bush, near running water and plenty of hay.

COWBOY: Is George White, who with brother Arthur and mother, operates a cattle ranch at Weekes in northeast Saskatchewan. Battling bears and wolves is all in the day's work at this ranch.

Springtime is branding time, when the letters PY are branded on all new stock. In the fall, 25 or 30 head are chosen for the market. The marked cattle are herded to Reserve Junction, 12 miles away.

Present Problem

Destruction of cattle by wolves and bears was a serious problem a few years ago when as many as 18 head were killed in a year. Though still a menace, these wild animals haven't been taking as big a toll in recent years.

The White brothers recall several instances in which wolves would encircle a calf and drive it away from the herd to kill it. Black and cinnamon bears also caused a lot of damage, killing or injuring cattle.

The brothers have killed as many as 10 bears and wolves during a spring and summer. They have also trapped several wolves in winter and, in 1927, they trapped no less than 150 coyotes, receiving an average of $14 apiece.

Arthur and George White have become experts in wild life in the area.

They recalled that moose were plentiful in the early 30s. Few were ever seen in the 40s, but now they are returning in greater numbers, the Whites say.

Deer have always been plentiful while elk are on the increase.

The lynx, vicious cat of the wilds, was common in the 20s and early 30s, but seldom is one seen nowadays. Mink have decreased considerably in recent years while beaver, unseen a few years ago, are plentiful. There are approximately 50 in the conservation block established by the department of natural resources.

As far as the White brothers and their mother are concerned ranching is "the life" and they wouldn't want to part with it.

Mrs. Arthur White senior with granddaughter Florence.

Harry, Wilfred, Art, George, Dolly, Violet, Mable and their mother Mrs. White.

VOLUME 20

The Preeceville Progress wed. Aug 13/52.

80th Birthday 1952

Relatives and friends from Regina, Preeceville and Endeavour gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred White at Weekes recently to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Annabelle White. Present at the celebration was her only sister. Mrs. Jack Park and her husband of Preeceville; her oldest son Harry and his wife of Endeavour; her daughters, Dolly (Mrs. W. Hearn of Regina; Violet (Mrs. W. Downs) and Mable (Mrs. Walter Hearn) both of Preeceville and her three sons George, Arthur and Wilfred all of Weekes. Also present at this re-union were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Downs and son, and Mr and Mrs. Leslie Downs, all of Preeceville. Mrs. White has 26 grand-children and 33 great-grand-children. The only great-grandson that was present at the party was two year old Walter Walter Downs of Preeceville.

Mrs. White was 80 years old on July 20th. She was born in Lockport, Manitoba, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Gunn, and granddaughter of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, Minister of Mines & Fisheries in the early Manitoba government. Residing on her sons' Pei Wei Ranch south of Weekes for several years and now a resident in the Village of Weekes, she is healthy and able to do all the housework and many other chores around the home. In addition to this, she has been looking after her grand-daughter Florence for the past six years.

Mrs. White cheerfully remarked "I am just too busy to get sick."

before moving north to farm at Endeavour, Sask. and then ranch on the P.Y. river south of Weekes, Sask.

While the families lived in the hills there was a good deal of visiting back and forth. Travel was relatively easy as the area was unfenced and trails were numerous. (Note: some of the old trails through the sandhills became the basis for the cross-country ski trails at Good Spirit Provincial Park--in fact one trail, Leeward, crosses the old yard of the Whites and Parks). The houses of the Gunns, the Whites, the Parks and the Carraghers were all within a mile or so of each other. The Gunn house was at the northwest corner of the northeast 1/4 of Section 9 and the Carraghers were at the southeast corner of the same quarter section.

Annabelle, or Nellie as she was always referred to in letters written by her father, was often mentioned when he wrote to his daughter Minnie while she was staying at Janet Muckles. In a letter of 12 October 1898 he tells her: "I was up at Whites last Sunday, the 9th, Geordies birthday. Harry & John went too. They had a nice dinner party, plenty of fowls, both domestic & wild, and lots of nice cakes and a good plum pudding." On 11 September 1899 he said: "Nellie's Sissy asked us all up to birthday dinner yesterday. They are to have a big christening in two weeks. They are to call the oldest boy Donald Harry, next George Joslyn, youngest boy Arthur. Do not know what they intend calling the girls, but will tell you later on." It would seem that George's middle name Joslyn came from his grandmother's maiden name, Joslin.

On 26 October 1910 they moved to the P.Y. ranch in the Porcupine Forest. From 1912 until the death of Arthur White in August 1928 they farmed near Endeavour while also keeping the ranch. Then Nellie moved back to the ranch to live with her sons George and Arthur before spending her final two years with her daughter Violet Downs in Preeceville, Sask. She died on 29 July 1959 at the Preeceville hospital. She and her husband Arthur had four sons and four daughters: Harry Donald White; George Jocelyn White; Margaret May (White) Hearn; Dolly Grace (White) Hearn; Arthur William White; Violet Ellen (White) Downs; Mabel Florence (White) Hearn and Wilfred Lorne White.

Donald Gunn, in the same letter of 28 January 1900 in which he talked about how sick George's family was, mentioned "My Nellie & Maggie & their families are all well and getting along nicely with a large lot of stock about them." In fact on the 4th March of the same year, in another letter to Janet Muckle he had even better things to say: "I was up today seeing Nellie & Maggie. They are all well & so well off, plenty of everything, horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, etc. In fact they are bound to be very wealthy in a few years, their men are such steady good workers."

PREECEVILLE, SASK., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1953

Head of this four generation picture is Mrs. A. White, of Weekes. The picture, taken at the home of Mrs. White during Christmas season, shows at the left, her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Downs, Preeceville, and at the right Mrs. Down's daughter,Mrs George Cameron (Lillian), Winnipeg, holding her daughter Diane, four years of age. Mrs. White is holding her great grandson Gordon Cameron, nine months old. Mrs. White, who is over 80 years of age, spent her childhood in and around Little Britain.

—Picture courtesy of Winnipeg Tribune.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Arthur White passed away on July 29th, 1959 in the Preeceville Union Hospital. She was a granddaughter of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, well-known historian and a member of the first Manitoba Legislature.

Formerly Annabella Ellen Gunn, daughter of Donald & Caroline Gunn (nee Ballandine), she was born at Little Britain, Man., on July 20, 1872 moving to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1882 and to Spirit Lake in the Yorkton district in 1887. She was married in Saltcoats in 1891 to Arthur White and they farmed until moving to their ranch south of the present village of Weekes, in 1910. In 1912 they moved to Endeavour, where they farmed until the death of Mr. White in 1928

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. White returned to the Weekes district residing with her sons, Arthur and George, until two years ago, when she moved to Preeceville to reside with her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Downs.

She is survived by four sons, Harry of Preeceville; George and Arthur of Weekes; and Wilfred, Hinton, Alta., three daughters: Dolly of Regina, Violet of Preeceville, Mabel of Weekes; a sister, Mrs. John Park of Preeceville; 28 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren ad four great-great grand children. A daughter, Margaret, predeceased her in 1924.

Funeral services were held in the Preeceville United Church on August 1st, with Dr. Rev. Thomas officiating. Burial was in the Preeceville Cemetery. The pallbearers were: R. MacDonald, L. Relitz R. Johnston, A.E. Downs, G. L. Cameron and A. Duguid.

William Henry
"Harry" Gunn

DONALD GUNN FAMILY HISTORY

The fourth child of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden was William Henry Gunn, known as Harry, born 28 July 1874 at Little Britain, Manitoba. He was unmarried, and had been farming on N.E. 1/4 Sec.16, Twp34, R.5, two miles south and one mile east of the present town of Preeceville, Sask. In a brief note dated 04 September 1906 and headed "Arthur White's, Tuesday" Donald Gunn writes to his son John: "Dear John-I write to tell you that Harry passed away at 3:30 o'clock today. He was unconcious all last night & most of today. White is off back to Canora with the Dr. & to get the coffin & have the grave dug-too bad but can't be helped. I will be down in the morning" signed "D.Gunn Sr".

Harry died intestate and his father became the administrator for his estate. Among the bills to be paid was one from Dr. T.A.Patrick of Yorkton for $35.00 against the estate for "31 August 1906 visit and attendance at Arthur Whyte's house." It was probably Dr. Hamilton rather than Dr. Patrick who was present when Harry died. Harry was buried in an unmarked grave in the Canora cemetery. In the Statement of Account Donald Gunn made as administrator of the estate he lists, among other things, the following expenses:

Casket	$45.00
Sexton	5.00
Dr. Hamilton	10.00
Sundries during sickness	25.00
Funeral expenses	25.00

When Harry died Donald kept the farm going while the estate was being settled. Among his accounts and comments are "1906 trip up there to ascertain what was on the place. Found five acres under crop & in stook. Paid J.W.Parks for threshing, binder twine, etc. $17.50. Return 300 bushels more or less (none sold) used for seed & feed the following spring. Spring 1907 bought Disc $46.40, Breaking Plow $24.00, half interest in seeder $50.00, expense of seeding $150.00, wire to enclose 1/4 section $75.00." He continues: "Tamarack posts $90.00, putting up the fence $100.00. Crop rank & frosted. Frozen & did not ripen. A portion cut & threshed but was unfit for sale or feed."

Donald's woes with being Administrator continued. For 1908 he says: "Bought seed at Ebenezer & freighted it on to 35.4. (Harry's land) $70.00, seeding & scrubing $150.00. Seeded 23 acres in oats, five in wheat & five in barley. Oats bought of J. Long for feed while seeding $35.00, breaking 11 acres $33.00, half-interest in binder $40.00, threshing 26.00." After paying out $354.00 that year finally they got a crop--"By oats return in fall 796 bushels. Sold 400 at 25 cents." He has written in the margin next to the crop results: "Stolen" so I'm not sure if the remaining 396 bushels were stolen or if he was making a comment on the price!

Donald also mentioned in his statement that he "paid J.W.Parks on a/c of putting in 1 year & 6 months Homestead

Preeceville Progress
1965
May 27th
1965

OBITU

John William Park

Mr. John William Park passed away quietly at the home of his William on Friday, May 14, 1965, at the age of 93 years and eight months.

Mr. Park, the son of the late Robert Park & Josephine Joselyn, was born in Tillsonberg Ont. on Sept. 4, 1871. He came to Broadview with his family in April, 1884, moving to Balcarres the same year. He joined the North-West Rebellion in 1885 as a home guard. In 1888 he moved to Good Spirit Lake, ranching with his brother Robert and his half-brother Arthur White. On Dec. 29, 1896 he married Margaret Gunn in Yorkton. To this union six children were born. They moved to the Preeceville district in 1905, where Mr. Park resided ever since.

Jack Park was one of the last great pioneers of this area where he farmed, & worked as a lineman for the Preeceville Rural Telephone Co. for a number of years. But what he will be remembered for was his veterinary services, which were self-taught as he loved the work and animals. He answered calls for help in all kinds of weather, any hour of the day or night. He was a genuine and friendly person, who could relate stories of the early days by the hour. He will be remembered with great affection by his family and by all who knew him.

Mr. Park leaves to mourn: one brother Robert of Preeceville; two sons, William of Preeceville & James of Portland, Oregon; two daughters, Mrs. Maude Peel, Preeceville & Mrs. Francis Dolton of Endeavour; 12 grand children & 12 great-grand children. His wife predeceased him in August, 1964, one son Donald in 1957, and a daughter Ethel in 1933, as well as one sister and a half brother.

Funeral services were held in the Preeceville United Church on Monday, May 17th at 1 p.m. with Rev. R.B. Heffelfinger officiating. Honorary pallbearers were: Joe Oxley, Fred Hagemeister, Carl Lindblom, John Hagemeister, Olaf Kvemshagen & Myron Feeley Acting pallbearers were his grandsons: Ronald Peel, Gerald Dolton, Harold Haugen, Leonard Johnson, Robert Park and Wilf Walsh.

Interment was in the family plot in the Preeceville Cemetery.

OBITUARY

1964

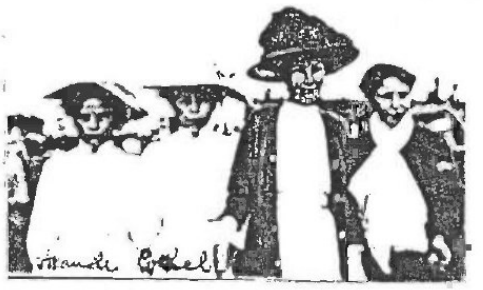
Mrs. Margaret Park

The passing of Mrs. Margaret Park, another of Preeceville's early settlers, occured in the Preeceville Union hospital on August 26th. She was born on July 14, 1876 at Little Britton, Man., the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gunn. In 1882 she moved to Fort Qu'Appelle with with her parents. In 1887 they moved to Good Spirit Lake, where in 1896 she married John W. Park. In 1905 they moved to their homestead in the Preeceville district, where she remained until her passing.

Mrs. Park leaves to mourn her husband, two sons, William of Preeceville & James of Portland, Oregon; two daughters: Mrs. Maud Peel of Preeceville and Mrs. Francis Dolton of Endeavour; twelve grand children and 11 great grand children. One son Donald of Portland, Oregon predeceased her in 1957 and one daughter, Ethel Schwalm of Russell, Man. in 1933.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Ray Heffelfinger in the Preeceville United Church. Burial took place in the Preeceville Cemetery. The pallbearers were: her three grandsons, Ronald Peel, James & Gerald Dolton and three grand sons-in-law Harold Haugen, Ted Tunbridge and Leonard Johnson. Godfrey's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Aunt Maggie
Dixie
White



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residence duties $25.00 per month, $450.00". His final entry on the sheet reads as follows: "1909 Hired help seeding & use of teams $150.00. Fall-no return. Hailed to Hell."

The land was evidently sold. Donald had a letter from a K.P.Carlson of Two Harbors, Minnesota dated 04 October 1913 saying he had bought the land in 1910 from Mr. Otto Lindblom, "the same land he had bought from you and I am informed that you are holding a mortgage on said land for the amount of $381.66 which amount is due December 1st. 1913. Will you please let me know if this be correct."

The fifth child of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden was Margaret Frances (Maggie) Gunn who was born 14 July 1876 also at Little Britain. She came as a young girl with the rest of the family to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1882 and then, in 1887, on to what is now Good Spirit Lake but known in those days as Devil's Lake. She married, on 29 December 1896 at Yorkton, Saskatchewan, John William Park who had been born 04 September 1871 at Tillsonburg, Ontario. He was a son of Robert and Josie Park. Josie had been married before and had a son Arthur White. This was the same Arthur White that in 1891 married Maggie's sister Nellie.

For the first six years of their marriage Maggie Gunn and Jack Park ranched about a mile east of her parent's home on the south side of the hills at Good Spirit Lake. The buildings of the Park family and those of the Arthur Whites were on the same sandy but grassy semi-plateau near a large slough (known as The Little Lake). They had hay meadows to the south and were backed by high hills immediately to the north to protect them from the winds that swept the seven mile length of Good Spirit Lake. Their nephew, Arthur White who was born there in 1899, said they used to call the big hill behind the Parks' buildings 'Flag' hill because they put a flagpole up on top of that hill. The area where the buildings had been was for many years, even into the 1970's (and even now to us 'oldtimers'), known as "The Ranching Place", "The Old Ranch" or just "The Ranch". Both the Parks and the Whites had children born at "The Ranch". The same Arthur White claims he had his first bath in Devils Lake!

By 1905 the family had moved to S.W.10-34-5 W.2nd, south of Preeceville, Saskatchewan, to farm. Jack Park had filed for the homestead late in 1902. As mentioned in Harry Gunn's story Jack & Maggie lived on Harry's homestead for some time after his death to fulfil the residency clause for a patent on the land. Jack Park was a self-taught veterinarian and was well known over a wide area as he answered farmers calls for help with their animals in all weather and day or night. Maggie Park died on 26 August 1964 at the Preeceville Union hospital. Her husband Jack-John William Park-died at home on 14 May 1965. They had a family of three sons and three daughters: William Alexander ('Sandy') Park; Ethel Ivy Nellie (Park) Schwalm; Maud (Park) Peel; Donald Robert Park; James Henry Park and Frances Margaret (Park) Dolton.

FROM DONALD GUNN TO HIS SON DONALD – MENTIONS "CARRY"

Little Britain
June 19th 1914

My dear Dool-

Willy who visited you Yesterday said that you were slowly improving, which news greatly gratified me—

But this Evening Sol Smith was here and said you were still poorly and Raping most the same as when you were here last Week. If this be the Case I would most earnestly recommend you to come up and Consult some one of the Doctors and get some Medicine from him. If you Could Come here to Morrow Evening you Could see Dr Schultz on Sunday at his [illegible]

when you Could Consult him and I am sure that he gladly do all in his power for you— Beg of you not to allow the disease, whatever it may be, to take too deep a root in your System. Remember that it is easier to prevent disease than Cure it when it once becomes Confirmed— Mr Swann will not give us the Stuff so we Can not set Nets nor hooks to take fish with and have to go without out that necessary of life—

Please give my Compliments to Carry and Janet and Madam Mackie Snr not forgetting my friend Minnie— I Remain

Your Affectionate but somewhat uneasy Father
D Gunn

The last born child of Donald Gunn and Caroline Ballenden died at birth in 1878. As you may have noticed, all of their children were born in July and all two years apart!

Although I have searched Archives and Vital Statistics I do not have a date of death or burial place for Caroline. The only clue to a possible burial site is the letter Janet (Gunn) Muckle wrote to her brother Donald on the death of their brother Sandy. She mentions that there was no room by his children so he was buried "next to dear Carrie, with room for Anglique by his side". I felt that 'Carrie' could possibly be Caroline for in a letter that Donald Gunn, Sr wrote to his son Donald he referred to Caroline as "Carry". The Little Britain records are incomplete on the Donald Gunn family so could not find proof that she was indeed buried there.

On 22 October 1881 Donald Gunn remarried. He married a widow, Sarah (Fidler) Bird, at the home of her parents, Peter and Amelia Fidler, in St. Paul's parish which was next to St. Andrew's parish--all part of the old Red River Settlement. The Rev. Samuel Matheson presided. Sarah was born 04 March 1851. She and her husband Morris H. Bird had three children who died in infancy. During her marriage to Donald Gunn, and while they were living in Fort Qu'Appelle, they also lost a son shortly after birth in 1882, and she also lost another one shortly before it was born in 1894.

Sarah Gunn died 12 February 1897 and was buried in the Yorkton City cemetery. Donald Gunn died 26 March 1927 and was buried beside her.

In 1882 Donald had moved to Fort Qu'Appelle to farm. The following few years proved to be frustrating for him. In a letter to the Land Agent at Moosomin, dated 24 October 1882, Donald says: "I beg to state that I have been settled on the East 1/2 of Section 30, Tp.21, R.13, West of Second P.M. since the early part of June last & that I am desirous of obtaining an Entry. Will you kindly inform me whether the lands in said Tp. are open for Entry or not. Permit me to add that I have improvements on the place which have cost me over one thousand dollars. I would feel greatly obliged if you will give me the necessary information. Will consider it a favor if you will forward to my address a map of this part of the northwest, I remain Sir, Your Humble Servant,D.Gunn."

In reply, from Department of the Interior, Dominion Lands Office, Qu'Appelle District, dated Moosomin, 27 October 1882, "Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 24th instant, and in reply to say that the east half of Section 30, Township 21, Range 13 West of the second meridian forms part of the Police Reserve. I beg to enclose herewith the map of the Northwest asked for in your letter." It is signed

1/10/88

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S1-9B

NAME	DONALD GUNN	SPOUSE SARAH FIDLER	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	ST. ANDREW'S MANITOBA	1850 OR 1851 BAPTISED 20 APRIL 1851 ST. PAUL'S PARISH, MANITOBA	USED PRESENT DAY PROVINCIAL NAME RATHER THAN N.W.T. OR ASSINIBOIA
Marriage/Place	17 OCTOBER 1881 AT HOME OF SARAH'S PARENTS ST. PAUL'S		
Death/Buried	26 MARCH 1927 DIED DEVIL'S LAKE YORKTON, SK	12 FEBRUARY 1897 DIED DEVIL'S LAKE YORKTON, SK.	
Occupation	TRADER/RANCHER		
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses	CAROLINE BALLENDINE - DIED 1878	MAURICE BIRD - DIED 1878	CHURCH RECORDS - P.A.M.
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	PETER FIDLER/AMELIA BIRD	

	sex	children	birthdate place	marriage date spouse's name	death date place
1	M	BABY-UNNAMED-DIED AT	APRIL 1882 BIRTH FORT QU'APPELLE, SK		APRIL 1882
2	M	JOHN ALEXANDER GUNN	21 AUGUST 1883 FT. QU'APPELLE, SK.	18 NOVEMBER 1924 YORKTON, SK MARGARET RUTH WALKER	12 AUGUST 1947 FORT SAN, SK. BURIED YORKTON
3	F	AMELIA MARY GUNN	04 DECEMBER 1885 FT. QU'APPELLE, SK	NO INFORMATION	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

J.McD.Gordon, Agent Dominion Lands. This was followed by a telegram dated 06 February 1883 from Mr. Gordon saying the same thing.

When it came to dealing with Government officials Donald Gunn never gave up easily! On 12 March 1883 he wrote a letter to The Minister of the Interior with a covering letter to his M.P. The letter to the latter was addressed to The Honourable A.W.Ross, M.P. and read: "Enclosed you will find a communication to the Honourable the Minister of the Interior, which I trust you will lay before that Honourable Gentleman. You will see from said communication that I am desirous of obtaining a Homestead & Preemption Entry for a certain lot of land. I trust that you will take my case in hand & if possible get a reply. I am prepared to go into farming largely, but all depends on the action of the Govt. in the matter. Trusting that your stay in Ottawa may be satisfactory to yourself & beneficial to those whom you represent. I beg to remain, Sir, Your Humble Servant."

The 'enclosed communication' was as follows: Dated Qu'Appelle, N.W.T. March 12th, 1883 and addressed to the Minister of the Interior it read: "I beg leave to state that I settled down in this place in the early part of June last, and on the East 1/2 of Section 30 in Township 21, Range 13 west of the Second Meredian, the said Township being (as far as I am aware) the only one subdivided at that time in this locality. I have made improvements which have cost me a great deal of time, labor & money. I have been living on the place since I commenced making improvements. In October last I applied to the Land Agent at Moosomin for leave to obtain an Entry but was informed by that Gentleman that the above mentioned land had been reserved for Police purposes. Feeling therefore that I am incuring a risk in continuing to make improvements, I deemed it advisable to apply through you for an Entry. Trusting that your reply may be favourable, I Beg to remain, Your Humble Servant, Donald Gunn."

A short note on House of Commons paper dated Ottawa 20th March 1883 read: "Dear Sir, Yours of the 12th instant, with enclosure, received. I shall bring the matter before the Minister at once, and advise you as soon as anything is decided, Yours truly, A.W.Ross." Donald waited until April 24th before writing him again: "Trusting that I may not be putting you to too much trouble I again write to draw your attention to my former communication to the Hon. The Minister of the Interior & to say that I am getting more anxious every day to obtain an Entry. As I have made more improvements on my place than any other Homesteader in this section of country consequently I feel that it will be a great hardship to me if I have the misfortune not to get an entry. Hoping you will take the necessary steps towards obtaining an entry for me, I remain, Yours respectfully, Donald Gunn." A.W.Ross replied on 4th May "Yours of the 24th ultimo duly received. Upon enquiry at the Department in reference to your matter, and again urging your case, I was informed that nothing

DONALD GUNN II 1840-1927

will be done until they get a report from Mr. Rufus Stephenson who has been sent out to make inspections."

When you don't get results go to the top! The next letter, written by Donald, was dated Fort Qu'Appelle, June 4th, 1883 and was addressed: "To the Right Honourable Sir J.A.McDonald, K.C.B. or Acting Minister of Interior".

Donald wrote: "Honourable Sir, Whereas a rumor is in circulation to the effect that it is the intention of your Govt. to dispose of certain lands in Tp 21, Range 13, West of the Second P.M. & known latterly as the North West Mounted Police reserve & Whereas I have been informed by J. Gillespie of Toronto, Managing Director of Dominion Colonization Co., that it is the intention of said Co. to purchase a certain portion of land in rear of Police Barracks in this place, & as I am settled within the parcel or tract of land which it is the intention of said Co. to purchase, I feel that it is my duty to communicate to you the facts of my case.

First. When I commenced making improvements on East 1/2 of Sec.30, Tp.21, Range 13, West of Second P.M. one year ago, I did so not knowing that any action had been taken by your Govt. with regard to reserving lands for Police purposes in this place. Later on in July 1882 I was informed that Section 19 which lies between this Sec.(30) & the Police Barracks had been sold to the Ontario & Qu'Appelle Land Co. Subsequently said section changed hands several times which strengthened the idea with me that I would obtain an entry all right when the lands in this Township would be thrown on the market. 2nd. That I came into this place at a time when we had no railway communication which made it expensive to get in here & much more so to live after one did get here. The consequence is that it has cost me over $5,000 since I left Winnipeg two years ago. 3rd. That I have built myself a very good comfortable house & have something like 20 acres enclosed & under crop & that I am the only one on the north side of the Lake & in this Tp. who has made improvements & lived on the land applied for, with the exception of those who settled in the river valley at an earlier date. If your Govt. think that I am not, in all fairness, entitled to a Homestead & Preemption, you will, I trust, allow me an opportunity of purchasing on terms as reasonable as your Govt. can make them."

One can but imagine what Donald thought when he received the following letter, from the Department of the Interior, dated Ottawa, November 7th, 1883. "Sir: I am directed by the Minister of the Interior to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th June last making application for homestead and preemption entry to E.1/2 Sec.30, Tp.21, R.13 W.2nd P.M. and to say that the Dominion Colonization Coy. did not purchase the Police Force reserve from the Government, but that, in any event, you are apparently in possession of the land above mentioned in defiance of the law, and are entitled to no consideration. The parcel of land upon which you appear to have settled has been reserved since August 1879 for Mounted Police purposes, and for these

purposes it is still reserved. Your settlement upon it is therefore entirely unauthorized and illegal. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, John R.Hall. Acting Secretary."

Never say Die! There is only one letter in 1884 dated February 7th. It is from Donald and reads: "To the Honorable Dr. J.C.Shultz. I was very glad to hear the other day from my brother John that you were improving in health and had taken your seat in the House. I am settled in this part of the great North West, within three miles of the Hudson's Bay Fort. I have a good comfortable house, stables, etc. with 50 acres ready for crop in spring, but unfortunately have not been able to get an entry in Land Office for the 1/2 section which I have settled upon (viz) East 1/2 of Sec 30, Tp 21, Range 13, West of 2nd principal meredian as the Government claim to have reserved the said Section in August 1879 for Police purposes. I was not aware that any reservation had been made at the time of settling down here in June 1882 and did not know anything of it until the following October when the land in this Township was placed on the market, and after I had large improvements made. In March 1883 I wrote to the Minister of the Interior through A.W.Ross, and was informed by that Gentleman that the Govt. were to send an inspector and would act on his report. The inspector never came. In June 1883 I again wrote the Minister of the Interior and received a reply in October last to the effect that the parcel of land upon which I am settled had been reserved in August 1879 for police purposes and that my settlement upon it was therefore entirely unauthorized and illegal. Feeling therefore that I am expending my time and labor at a great disadvantage I write through you, trusting that the Govt. will reconsider my case and allow me a homestead and preemption entry for the east 1/2 of aforesaid section or the north 1/2 which would suit me quite as well. I may mention that north west 1/4 is outside the Police reserve while the north east 1/4 is inside and contains all my improvements. I would therefore like to get the north 1/2 of the section if it can be had. Trusting that you will take my case in hand and I hope successfully, I remain, Yours respectfully, Donald Gunn." Donald added to his copy of the letter: "Memo, This communication was forwarded to Minister of Interior through Dr. Schultz. No reply. Made Statement before Commissioner Walsh in March or April 84 which was affidavited by A.McDonald of Hudson's Bay Co. and received no reply to said statement."

Donald hasn't given up yet! There are two letters dated 07 January 1885 written by him. The first was to A. Walsh, Esquire, Land Commissioner, Winnipeg, and said: "Sir, Will you kindly let me know what action, if any, the Govt. have taken re my holdings here. Have been to Land Office in Regina & made conditional Entry for 1/2 Sec. Was informed when there that another party had made conditional Entry for my preemption 1/4. Now Sir, as I have been an actual settler on the place and as I have a large family dependent on me, who have been living with me on the place since my settlement, having also made large improvements at a great expense, and knowing as I do, that up in this part of the North

West 160 acres is not sufficient for a farmer who of necessity must have a considerable number of stock on his farm, I would therefore like that the Govt. would grant me an Entry proper for the 1/2 Section claimed, I beg to remain, Yours, D. Gunn."

It would seem that he had written to Winnipeg before the letter of January 7th, 1885, for on that same date he writes to the Dominion Land Agent at Regina saying: "I beg to forward communication from Winnipeg re my former homestead in Manitoba. I beg to request you to let me know whether it will be necessary for me to appear again personally before you in the event of the Govt. granting me an entry for the 1/2 section applied for. I ask this knowing that other parties are desirous of stepping in and taking advantage of me in this matter and who might do so if I were absent. I may here mention that I have been making further improvements on my preemption, I beg to remain Sir, Respectfully yours, Donald Gunn."

The reply from Regina was dated 9th January 1885 and read: "Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th inst and in reply to inform you that if you obtain permission from the Minister or the Commr. of Dom. Lands to enter for the land it will not be necessary that you should come in person. I can under no circumstances give you preference, in other words the conditional entry gives you no privilege except to save you the journey." The letter had no signature only "I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedient servant".

The reply from Donald's letter to Winnipeg was dated on January 15th, 1885 and said: "Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th inst. in reference to your claim to part of Sec:30-21-13 W2nd M. In reply I am directed by the Commissioner to inform you that your claim to the right of pre-emption entry covering a quarter section adjoining that for which you have made a conditional homestead entry will be considered and disposed of as soon as two members of the Land Board can meet, and in order to get a proper understanding of the matter, it is advisable that you should in the meantime fill a declaration stating precisely what improvements you have effected upon the land intended by you for your pre-emption. It is as well you should understand however that under the law a squatter, before receiving entry can hold only one quarter section, and is not entitled to hold a second quarter section (which he may propose entering for as a pre-emption) to the exclusion of any other squatter who may desire to occupy such land and to subsequently enter for it as a homestead. Your right by occupation can cover only one quarter section, and for this reason the Board may be unable to order the cancellation of the conditional entry granted for the quarter section in dispute, and that the right shall be accorded you to acquire pre-emption entry therefore. I have the honor to be Sir, your obedient servant." It was written by another hand but signed by "T.R.Burpe, Secretary".

DONALD GUNN FAMILY HISTORY

The request by the above writer for a Declaration stating what improvements Donald Gunn had made on his land gives us an idea of just what he had done. Dated Fort Qu'Appelle, 27th January 1885 his copy of it reads as follows: "I Declare- That I came to this place in the fall of 1881 with a portion of my family for the purpose of settling down and making (Note: there is a hole in the paper here--it could be 'making' or 'working'--only the 'king' is intact) a farm and of making this place my home. That on about the 10th day of June 1882 I commenced breaking on the East 1/2 of Sec.30, Tp21, Range 13 west of Second P.M. That in the summer of 82 I broke 10 acres more or less. That on or about the 1st day of June I commenced building and residing on the place. That I built a House, 20x18 ft with an addition 20x9, also Stables 20x18. Also had a well sunk.
That during the summer of 1883 I broke some more land seeding 20 acres with wheat some I had broken previous year. This year after seeding broke some more. Made an addition to my stable 24x18. That in the year 1884 I enclosed 60 acres, seeded 30 and broke 20. making 50 acres in all broken at the present time. That I have since built a granary 12x22. In consequence of the severity of the present winter my water supply failed and I had to sink another well which I hope will give me a sufficency for all time. The above improvements were made on the N.E.1/4 of the above named Section. That I do further declare that in the summer of 1883 I had one acre broken on the S.E.1/4 of above mentioned section and that I have timber thereon for the erection of a good permanent grainary and fence poles sufficient to enclose 10 acres."

The final letter in Donald's battle with the various Government agencies came from the Dominion Lands Office, Regina, Assiniboia, dated 11th March 1885. It read: "Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. asking for your Interim Receipts for the East 1/2 of Sec 30, Tp 21, Range 13, W.2nd M. and in reply to say that I am waiting for instructions from Winnipeg in reference to the above land. I have the honor to be Sir, your obedient servant, A.J.Fraser for A.D.L."

Donald's long struggle was over. There are no letters or notes for the year 1886 but by 1887 he had moved approximately eighty miles north to Devils Lake. If he was successful in getting only one quarter, and perhaps not the one he had his buildings on, he would probably have decided it was not enough land. Or perhaps drought and crop failures or water shortages led to the move.

To Donald goes the last word on the land question. The above letters were found long after his death, rolled up in his trunk. Written on the back of the outside letter was this remark in his handwriting: "Fort Qu'Appelle Homestead. Writing to obtain it was more than the Land was worth."

Donald Gunn evidently went back to Manitoba in October of 1881 where he remarried. Aunt Nellie (Gunn) White once told me that she could remember going to meet her step-mother at the 'station' when her father returned with his new wife from Manitoba. In October 1881 Aunt Nellie would have been nine years old. Her brother Donald would have been 13, George 11, Harry 7 and Maggie 5.

Donald Gunn and his wife, with his five children, and their two young children, John and Minnie, moved north in 1887 to Devil's Lake where Donald went more into ranching than farming. He also, as he did in Manitoba in 1879, ran a trading post. This time he got his supplies from the HBC at Fort Qu'Appelle.

The area he chose, on the south shore of Good Spirit Lake, was unsurveyed and had an abundance of water and pasture for cattle with meadows that would provide hay for winter feed. There were also good stands of poplar to provide fuel and logs for building purposes and willow for posts. In addition there was a seemingly unlimited supply of fish, fruit and fur in the area. An ideal location for both ranching and trading.

The trading post was in operation by the end of 1887 and for more than ten years served the incoming settlers, the traders, and the bands of Indians who came to hunt and fish and pick chokecherries that were so plentiful in the hills along the south end of the lake. Fur prices were low but so were many of the trade goods they got in return. In 1890 the following were the average prices shown in the old ledgers:

Furs		Trade Goods
Wolverine...	$3.50	Tea.....25 cents per lb.
Fox.....	$1.00	Bacon....20 cents per lb.
Lynx.....	$1.75	Flour....1 1/2 cts. per lb.
Wolf.....	$1.25	Cotton Print..12 cts. yard
Fisher....	$4.00	Cotton Drill..30 cts. yard
Mink.....	.50	Fork Handle...25 cents
Badger....	.35	Fancy Shawl...60 cents

A Hudson's Bay Company Three-point Blanket sold for $3.25 while beef sold in the trading post at six cents a pound. This price for beef was ten cents less than it was in the 1880 ledger from the trading post on the Birdtail River. In the ledgers, besides the local names such as Cunningham, Robinson, Carragher, Barber and of course the Parks', Peels' and Whites' there were Dunlop and others from the immediate Yorkton area. Also Little Bone and Kinistino and others from south of Yorkton.

After the land had been surveyed Donald applied for a homestead. On 19 May 1894 he applied for a Patent for the N.E.1/4 of Section 9, Twp 29, Range 5 W.2nd as his homestead and did not apply for any under land as a pre-emption. His application stated

Swan River District, Nov. 24th 1884

FORT QU'APPELLE.

Mr. D. Grame

Leading Ct.

Dr. To THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

TERMS, CASH---One per Cent. per Month on Overdue Accounts.

	To 18 lbs IXL Tobacco	11½	11	21
	" 1 Keg Gunpowder	6 90	6	90
50	" 100 lbs Oatmeal 50	3 94	3	94
1 pr	" 2 prs 3½ pt Blankets Blue	5 54	11	08
1 "	" 1 " 3½ " Red do	5 88	5	88
1 "	" 1 " 3 " Wht do	5 16	5	16
1 pr	" 1 " 3 " Striped do	4 77	4	77
1 Jar	" 5 Gals Coal Oil	32½	1	62
	" 3 Bags 3X flour	1 25	3	75
	" 1 Keg Syrup	2 76	2	76
	" 1 doz Fish Hooks	1 70		20
	" 1½ gross Matches	53		81
	" 1 Oil Can	3 00		55
	" 1 Btle B. Bitters	10 85		90
	" 12 panes Glass 8x10	3 39		45
	" 3 Skns No 9 Twine	79	2	37
	" 3 " " 10 do	25		75
	" 1 " " 5 do	45 10		45
20 lb	" 24 lbs N.H. Tobacco 22 lbs.	68	16	32
	" 3M Guncaps	76	2	28
	" 2 doz Awls	25		43
returned	" 1 pr Hinges 07	20		17
"	" 1½ doz Sinews	37		05
	" 1 Lantern	86		72
	" ½ doz No 3 Traps	6 03	3	02
1 pr	" 3 prs Boots	1 87	2	74
	" ¼ doz Moccassins	17 39	4	35
	" ½ " Shirts Cord	9 79	4	89
	" 75 lbs Shot	7 56	5	64
	" 60 " Tea 2nd quality	28	16	80
	" 174 " Bacon	14 70	25	58
	" 1 Box Dom. Soap	2 98	2	98
	" ½ doz Under Shirts	9 85	4	92
	Forward		154	17

PAGE

Swan River District, 26th October 1888

FORT QU'APPELLE.

Mr. D. Gunn

Credit By

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

TERMS, CASH.—One per Cent. per Month on Overdue Accounts.

By 70 Cyprus	@ 25	45	
" 70 Red Foxes	12½	25	
" 1 Marten Fox		40	
" 14 Robes	12½	4 50	
" 3 Fishers	6½	18 75	110 25
" 1 Black Bear		10	
" 1 Cub do		2	
" 13 Cyprus	17½	22 75	
" 1 Marten Fox		2 50	
" 14 Lamyde Red Foxes	75	3	
" 15 Red "	1.20	18	
" 10 Robes	"	12	
" 8 Fishers	4.00	32	
" 7 Wolverine	3.75	21	109 25
			219 50

1890

M. Donald Gunn

Bought of The Hudson's Bay Comp.y

Terms, Cash.

Interest will be charged on all overdue Accounts.

Recd 20 8			Brot Forward			37776	
Contd	3 lb	Gr	Red	Pepper p.s	37	96	
	1/2	Doz	Youths	Braces	109	09	
	1	pr	Lumbermans	Rubbers	160	160	
	3/3	Doz	6 in flat	Files	103	69	
	1/6	"	7 " Taper	Do	876	15	
	3	lbs.		Resin	15	45	
	1/2	Gro	Yel.	Oil	224	19	
Cafes	10	lbs	N. N.	Tobacco	76d	760	
	6	prs		Brogans	100	600	
	3	"		Boots 2150	127	381	
	1	"		Do 2450	164	164	
	4	Grs.	Telegraph	Matches.	70d	280	
	1/6	"		Pain Killer	2580	430	
after	1	Doz	7	Braces	554	554	12/3 3 24 (1/6
	5/6	"	71	Do	259	216	7 11
	1/6	"	H.B.	Axes 7950	821	137	1 3 7
	1/6	"	Do	Do	745	124	2
	3	only	Horses	Blankets	193	579	
Bdl	8/2	lbs.		Rope	16d	136	
Bdls	2	Bdls	Yel.	Sugar		"	
			299-19=280			"	
			323-21=301	581 lbs Net	761	4427	
Bale	6	prs	3pts. Wht.	Blankets	505	3030	
	2	"	3/" "	Do	611	1222	
	1	"	2/3 " "	Do	420	420	
	1	"	2 " "	Do	269	269	
	3	only		Mooseskins	500	1500	
Bdle	3	"		Do	500	1500	
	1	"	Horses	Blankets	193	193	
Bal	1	Bal	177-20=157 lbs	Dried Apples	867	1361	
Sack	300	lbs.	Mariott	Beans 3/3 Bush	263	877	
Sack	606	"	C. S.	Bacon	13d	7878	
"	39	"	No 1	Rice	6/5	242	
				Forward		64969	

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1890

M Donald & Gunn

Bought of The Hudson's Bay Comp.y

Terms, Cash.

Interest will be charged on all overdue Accounts.

Brought forward						179	88
Cont.	1/4	Doz		Overalls	9710	10 32	2 58
	1/4	"		Do	21950	13 01	3 25
	1/6	"	"Boss"	Do		9 30	1 55
	1/2	"		Towels	2110	1 20	60
	1/2	"		Do	2740	1 97	99
	1 1/2	"	Royal Red	Handkerchiefs		94	1 41
	1	"	Nil	Shirts + Drawers		8 78	8 78
	1	"	"	Do	Do	4 93	4 93
	1	"	Skeins of 1	Twine	(Yellow)	16 60	1 92
	1/2	"	" " 3	Do	"	30 d	1 80
	2/3	"	Wood	Pipes	760	78 d	52
	1/2	"	"	Do	2110	1 20	60
	1/3	"	"	Do	3880	3 32	1 11
	1/2	"	"	Do	2400	1 67	84
	12	pairs	Leather	Laces			"
	2	pkgs	1 1/2 in	Screws		26 d	52
	1 1/2	lb.	1/5	Mustard		56 d	84
	25	yds	Blue	Denim		17 d	4 25
	25	"	"	Drill		18 d	4 50
	41	"	Grey	Winsey		15 60	6 40
	1/3	Gro	M. C. Q.	Spools		5 70	1 92
	1/2	Doz	Dressing	Combs		1 35	69
	1/2	"	Fine Tooth	Do		77 d	39
	3	C	Glovers'	Needles		3 16-24	95
	3	C	Sharps	Do		1 79-24	54
	1	Doz		Thimbles		4 45-60	37
	1	lb	Sewing	Wire		32 d	32
	1/3	Doz	Pocket	Knives	3540	29 7	97
	1/4	"	Do	Do	2250	1 37	34
	1/2	"	Do	Do	3090	1 78	74
	1	"	Neck	Laces		58 d	50
	1 1/2	"	Butcher	Knives	700	1 39	69
	1/2	"	Do	Do	4770	4 35	1 83
	1	M	Brass	Tacks		82	82
							228 21

18/141/4
144

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Swan River District, Fort Qu'Appelle 1890

FORT QU'APPELLE. July 23rd

Mr Donald Gunn

Dr. to THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

TERMS, CASH—One per Cent. per Month on Overdue Accounts. Accounts rendered Monthly.

Case 1	1/2	Doz	Moose	Skins	60c/24	36 00
	1/3	"	Ladies	Hose	2.33	78
	1	pair	"	Shoes	1.24	1 24
	1	"	"	Do	94c	94
	1	"	"	Do	1.50	1 50
	3	"	Mens	Brogans	1.00	3 00
	1/2	Doz		Towels	1.96	98
	4	pairs	Nis Wool	Socks	2.50	86
	5	only	Knives &	Forks	1.74 Doz	73
	3	pair	Nis Blue	Overalls	10.67	2 67
	3	"	" Brown	Do	10.32	2 58
	12/4	yds		Awning	19c/10	2 44
	1/2	Doz	7/8	Twine	17c/2	1 02
	1	only	Skein # 9	Do	61c	61
	1	pair	Top	Boots	2.41	2 41
	10	yds		Cashmere	29c	2 90
	48	"	81 Cents	Check	13c	6 24
	1			Jersey	86c	86
	2			Do	1.40	2 80
	2	pairs	Pair	Scissors	5.10 Doz/2	85
	4	yds	Red Table	Damask	37	1 48
Sacks	3	Sacks	3	Flour	1.70	5 10
Chest	1	Hf	Chest 62 lbs.	Tea	28c/	17 36
	1	Brl	290 lbs	Sugar	7c/	21 75
	2	only	Hay	Forks	50c	1 00
	2	"		Handles	1.50 Doz/	25

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Fort Qu'Appelle Nov 6th 1890

Mr Donald Gunn Devil's Lake

Bought of The Hudson's Bay Comp.y

Terms Cash. Interest will be charged on all overdue Accounts.

1/12	20 lbs.	4 in	Nails		5 ct	100
	20 "	2½ "	Do		5 ct	100
Bags	5 Bags	125 lbs	Shot		8 50 per 100	1031
Box	1 Box	Sons	Soap		2 68	268
Keg	1 Keg	F.F.F.	Gunpowder		5 46	546
Cads	3 Cads	J.R.B.	Tobacco		10 32	3096
Sacks	2 Sacks	Rolled	Oats		2 95	590
½ Chests	3 ½ Chests	Congou	Tea			"
	2 No	2 - 12½ lbs		@	25 ct	3025
	1 "	1 - 63 lbs			32 ct	2016
Kegs	1 pail		Syrup		1 88	188
Kettles	4 only	Copper	Kettles	3½	1 78	712
Shawls	¼ Doz	Wool	Shawls		5 41	138
	1 only		Do	#1	1 37	137
	1 "		Do	#2	1 32	132
	1 "	Scarlet	Do		2 40	240
	1 "	(½)	Grey Do		76 ct	76
	1 "	Ladies	Ulster		5 05	505
	½ Doz	Mens	Flannel Shirts	7020 L	11 53	459
	⅙ "	"	"	Do 9110 L	9 60	160
	⅙ "	"	"	Do 21420 L	12 37	206
	½ "	"	"	Do 21870 L	17 94	108
	⅙ "	"	"	Do 24430 L	15 99	267
	¼ "	"	Cloth	Do 6780 L	6 80	170
	⅙ "	"	Yacht	Do 5790 L	5 02	84
	¼ "	"	Cloth	Pants 2490	16 44 per doz	492
	¼ "	"	Do	Do	16 86 per doz	504
	½ "	"	Fey Twill	Do Eng.	17 36 per doz	738
	1 only pr		Do	Do 3710 L	3 17	317
	1 "	"	Do	Do 30102 L	3 48	348
	1 "	"	Do	Do 9173 L	2 81	281
	1 "	"	Do	Do 9068 L	2 15	215
	2 "	"	Do	Do 2820 L	2 05	410
	½ Doz			Overalls 21780	12 20	102
	¼ "			Do 8850 L	9 24	232

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that he lived on it since June 1887 and his wife and family had arrived in September 1887. It is believed that at least his sons Donald and George came with him in June. By 1894 he had no land under cultivation but listed 80 head of stock and 26 horses as being the average on hand since 1887. Buildings were listed as a log house 17x40, and two log stables 64x24 and 56x23. He also told them he had come before the survey and located his homestead. In answer to the question "Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what became of it?" Donald writes: "Yes, pt. of 36-14-4 East-sold it" This would be his original home in Manitoba.

Donald made no mention of having obtained a homestead at Fort Qu'Appelle but in reply to the following letters he mentions it: "Department of the Interior, Dominion Lands Office, Yorkton, March 25th, 1895. Sir, I have the honour to inform you that you can now make your entry for N.E.1/4 Sec. 9, Tp.29, Rge 5, W.2 M. and to ask you to do so at your earliest convenience, that the matter may be closed." The second letter was dated two years later: March 15th, 1897 and read: "Sir, I have the honour to advise you that the Department have asked me whether I am aware of the reasons why you have not availed yourself of the privilege of entering as a Homestead the N.E.1/4 of 9.29.5.2. which at your request was surrendered to the Crown by the Manitoba and North Western Railway Company, in order that you might enter. Kindly advise me so that I may convey your reasons to the Department."

If there was any communication between Donald and the Dept in the ensuing four years we do not know but on 20th March 1901 Donald wrote, about the N.E. quarter: "..upon which I have been living with my family since 1887 and upon which I have made valuable improvements, therefore beg to be allowed a Homestead Entry. I beg further to state that I have taken up a homestead in Manitoba and also one in the Territories near Fort Qu'Appelle. As I have homesteaded twice the Department may not be in a position to grant me an Entry. In that case I beg that the Dept. will allow an Entry to be made by one of my sons who have been residing continually with me since 1887." The reply, dated 1st April, 1901, told him that, as he apparently had already secured a second homestead, it would be impossible to grant him another but his son could apply. It was requested that the necessary forms be filled in and "you will be further advised after the required information has come to hand."

Donald, in the name of his oldest son, Donald James, filled in the same declaration as he had done in May 1894. The only changes were that they now had three acres broken for a garden. And their herd and buildings had increased: "Between 1887 and 1897 100 head to 140 annually (cattle) and 25 to 35 horses". Under buildings and size he listed the house as 20x38, and one 18x30 so they had built their second house by then. He listed their value as $200.00. He also mentioned "five or six acres fenced". Under "What other buildings have you erected? What other

improvements have you made, and what is the cash value of the same?" Donald told them to see the attached memo.

The memo read: "Five stables for horned stock 90 feet by 25. Two stables for horses 45 ft. by 25. One Dairy 12 ft by 14. A house in course of construction 24 ft by 20. Cash value of above buildings $400.00. At the present time 75 head of horned stock on the place in which I have an interest. Also 25 head horses. I am now fencing the 1/4 Section with the view of bringing it under cultivation." As Donald Senior was filling it in for Donald James it would seem that he and his son jointly owned the stock.

Donald Senior had obtained a grazing lease in 1894 for all of Section 34, Township 28, Range 5 and Section 10, Township 29, Range 5, West of the 2nd Meridian. Both were close to his home.

It must have been decided by the Department of the Interior that Donald himself could obtain the homestead, perhaps because of his problems with the Fort Qu'Appelle land. This time Donald was the winner! He eventually, after much haggling with the Government again, obtained the N.E. 1/4 of 9-29-5-W2nd, for his price of $1.00 per acre rather than the $2.00 the Government wanted! He took the same steps he had in attempting to get the Fort Qu'Appelle homestead, writing letters to the Department of the Interior and also going the political route with letters to his local M.P. Dr. E.L.Cash.

Parts of a letter to Dr. Cash from the office of the Deputy Minister of the Interior, dated Ottawa 31st August 1911 gives us some background on the matter...."and in reply to say that Mr. Gunn was permitted in 1905 to purchase the fractional North East Quarter of this section at $2.00 per acre, which was the value placed upon it by the Homestead Inspector. Mr. Gunn has never availed himself of this privilege as he considered the rate too high. This sale was made under the old regulations which permitted such action. Under our existing regulations I do not see how the area could be.."(2nd page missing). Dr. Cash, in a covering letter advises Donald that "..this is the best the Department can do for you and if it had not been promised to you some time ago you would not be able to get it for this price, and I would advice you that if you desire the land you had better secure it at the very earliest moment possible."

In a letter of February 13th, 1906 Donald had written to the Department of the Interior replying to their letter of September 22nd, 1905 which was probably the letter referred to in the above paragraph. Donald said in part: "Homestead Inspector did not see the N.E.1/4 of 9.29.5.W.2nd to my knowledge. I am therefore desirous of having my case reconsidered. In view of the fact that I have been on the place for the last eighteen years and also that the land is almost worthless and has been nearly all under water for the last few years, so much so that I had to abandon the place in the spring of 1904. Mr. D. McLeod who has been annually on the place for the last fourteen years is in a

position to consolidate the above. I therefore humbly request that the Dept. will allow me to purchase the above 1/4 section at $1.00 per acre, one fourth down and the balance in three equal annual instalments."

In another letter, undated on Donald's copy, he again says: ...."as the said quarter is mostly subject to being flooded in wet seasons, and has been mostly under water for the last six years. The Govt. offerred it to me at $2.00 per acre which I consider too high. As my claim is an old one, will the Govt. be willing to let me have the N.W. 1/4 as well. It is higher land and a part could be brought under cultivation. Would like that the Govt. would take my case into consideration as stock raising is ending here now."

Donald, if nothing else, was stubborn! In 1907 he went the political route with no results. His M.P., after getting a reply to a letter he wrote on Donald's behalf to Ottawa, told him that the department could do nothing on his behalf and he did not think that it would be of any use to bother further with this case and "I would advise that you make arrangements accordingly if you desire the land". We know that Dr. Cash told him the same thing in October 1911.

But they didn't know the dogged persistence of Donald! He must have continued his battle with them. By July 1912 he got the following from the Department of the Interior, Dominion Lands and Crown Timber Office at Yorkton, Sask, "Sir, N.E. 1/4 of 9-29-5 W2nd. I am instructed by the Department of the Interior at Ottawa to say that in view of the report of the Homestead Inspector, the purchase price of the above mentioned land has been reduced from $2.00 to $1.00 per acre. Kindly attend to this at once in order that the transaction may be closed as quickly as possible." He made the final payment of $50.70 on August 15, 1914. In a letter to his son John dated 12 October 1912 he mentions his deal with the Government: "Land is high in price. $25.00 to $30.00 per acre. I wrote to the Ottawa Govt. and they are to let me have the N.E. 1/4 of Sec. 9 for the enormous sum of $1.00, one dollar, an acre or $148.00 for the 1/4. Of course I am snapping it up." Part of the 160 acres of the quarter section was in the lake.

Donald seems to have enjoyed writing letters. He also enjoyed reading. His newspapers were important to him. In a letter to his sister Janet Muckle dated 28 January 1900 he says: "Just think of it, we have had no outside news later than yours of 14th inst. No papers came in by the mail which brought your letter". He ended the same letter with these words: "I am going crazy for mail matter. If none comes tomorrow you may expect that I am away off if you do not hear from me."

Donald also found time for hunting too. In the middle of November in 1906 he went hunting west of the lake and had an interesting experience. He writes in a letter to his son John: "I ran across two large buck Black-tail deer that had been

fighting and got caught by the horns. I found them west of the widow's place where you shot the wolf the other fall. The youngest and strongest had broken the neck of the other, an old monster, and he was dragging him round a-s foremost. A pack of wolves had eaten the half of him. (Note: one wonders if the 'wolves' were not coyotes as a pack of actual wolves would have had very little trouble in killing the second deer). They must have been locked for two or three days. I have the finest pair of heads that I ever saw, 5 & 6 prongs, and both nearly alike. Bill Davis was up here and I am arranging to get them mounted and stuffed by the fellow who stays at his place. He is up at Fultons saw mill for the winter but will be back in time in spring. The heads I got are far larger than those in Balmoral." (Note: the Balmoral was the hotel in Yorkton).

By the fall of 1912 Donald was getting ready to build another house and in 1913 built what was to be his final home. He did much of the work on it himself and lived in it until his death in 1927. The Local Improvement District, later known as the Rural Municipality, of Good Lake #274, held their meetings at Donald Gunn's house from 1910 until approximately 1919. In his copy of his 1919 Income Tax form he showed as income $100.00 from "rent of house for municipal meetings."

In his later years he may have slowed down but was not about to be intimidated! In July 1917 he had a letter from a Jay C.Trenaman of Calgary, Alberta saying Dr. A.C.Nixon, formerly of Buchanan, Sask. had turned his accounts over to him for collection and that Donald owed Dr. Dixon $15.00. Donald must have ignored that letter and most of the seven more than came from the Imperial Mercantile Collection Agency between November 1920 and June 1921. Each letter got more threatening!

Finally another letter arrived dated July 27, 1921. This one threatened to sue with dire results. Finally Donald decided to answer them. The eighty-one year old veteran of letter-writing wars had not lost his touch! It read: "Gentlemen, Re this a/c of Dr. A.C.Dixon. I beg to say that I do not owe him anything. He was paid in full and I wrote you to that effect last January. Cheques endorsed by him and honored by Union Bank were one of $30.00 March 1917 and one $15.00 cashed June 1st, 1917, and one August 9th, 1917. That was all he had against me and I suppose he forgot to give me credit for this last cheque which he cashed at Buchanan after endorsing it. Of course the Bank return all cheques to me after paying them. Trusting this will be satisfactory. I am, yours respectfully, Donald Gunn." The postscript is pure Donald! "Tell A.C.Dixon to send me $10.00 for trouble and annoyance he has put me to in this matter, D.Gunn."

High water levels, no more open grazing lands after the influx of settlers and periodic hay shortages due to high water levels, (his letter of October 1912 said that "every bit of Section 10 is under water, no hay") led to Donald gradually going

out of ranching. He still bought cattle for shipping to Winnipeg and kept a few head of stock but not on the scale he had earlier.

He was also more or less on his own. His youngest son John spent some time at home between military service in the Boer and First World Wars but otherwise Donald had to depend on casual help from his grandsons or hired help. He spent his later years enjoying the people who came to what became known as Gunn's Beach. He was a familiar figure as he walked around talking to everyone and asking "Who are you, where are you from?"

Donald Gunn and Sarah Fidler had two children that survived. The first was John Alexander Gunn born at Fort Qu'Appelle 21 August 1883. According to the church records in the Provincial Archives in Winnipeg he was baptised 08 July 1884 at St. Paul's. St. Paul's Baptisms 1884-1910 (6). His parents, or his mother, must have been back to the Red River settlement for a visit that summer.

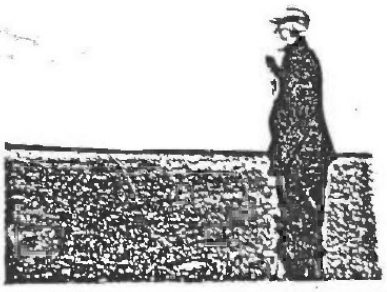
John was only four years old when the family moved to the south end of Devil's Lake (now Good Spirit Lake) northwest of Yorkton, Sask. John first went to the old Whitesand School that opened in 1893 and was located on S.E. 10, Twp 28, R. 5, W.2nd on the Whitesand River about seven miles south of their home. In a letter to his sister Minnie dated April 1st, 1898 he says: "I will be going to school in Yorkton. When I left the W.S. school I was doing Percentage and in the 3rd class." He did not go right into Yorkton for school but attended Orkney School just west of Yorkton in 1898, boarding at N.H.Neilson's while going to classes. He seems to have enjoyed school but missed being at home. Due to the illness of his brother Harry who was at home helping his father, John had to give up his schooling to return home to help with the work.

John Gunn had an extremely interesting, although at times harrowing, life. During the years following the death of his mother in February 1897 he seems to have been general cook and choreboy, especially after his sister Minnie left that summer to go to school in Manitoba. His only break was during the year he spent at Orkney school. But he found time to hunt and trap and, as the April 1st, 1898 letter to his sister said, 'sell enough lamp wick to get a watch as a premium'. He also mentions the local dances he attended: "They had a big dance here on the 2nd of March, there was a lot of people here then. May & Grace Peel walk down to Whites about twice a week and sometimes we have a small dance to ourselves, they are good dancers. They have a set of boxing gloves down at White's & Harry and I go down pretty often to have some fun with them. You won't know me the next time you see me. I have grown so much, I am as big as Harry."

With John Gunn it is not lack of reference material that makes for difficult writing, rather it is the abundance of the material! He was my father so that gives me access to a good deal of information about him. But more importantly we were, or are, a

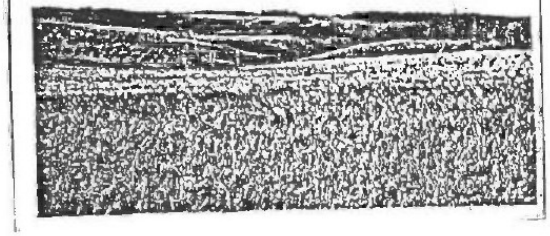
SARAH (FIDLER) BIRD GUNN
WITH HER CHILDREN
JOHN & MINNIE
1887 OR 1888

DONALD GUNN
1925



where he home-
steaded in 1912

Ft. Sill Apache.
(3 miles north)



MINNIE GUNN

JOHN A. GUNN 1890's-1900

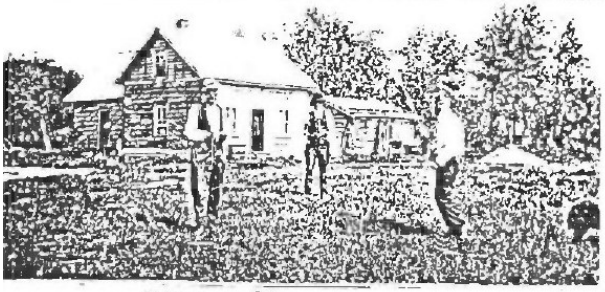
LETTER FROM SARAH GUNN

Gonor P O Miss
Feb 21 1895

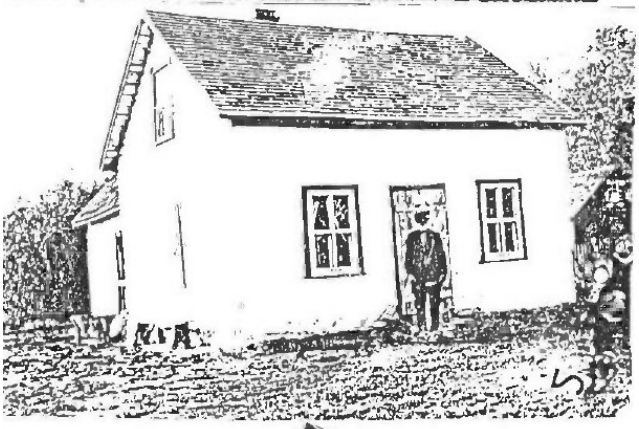
Dear Donald

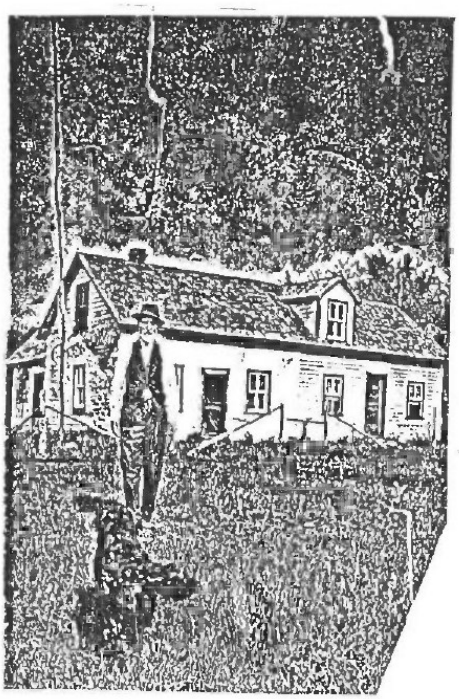
I Come to your Brothers Johns Saturday Expecting a letter from [illegible] Mail Came Thursday but i Hoped it will Come to Day i intended to go back the Next day after the Mail Came but they told Me to Stop and wait for the Next Mail

I am Sorry to Say that i Got sick here at 4 oclock Yesterday Morning i had a Miss Carrige Emma Says it had been dead for Some time it was a Boy i feel Very Low Disheartened i was sure i would get along All right this time but perhaps its is better for My Self the way things turned out i Suppose it died the time I Nearly died My Self i feel Strong & i am able to Keep Myself from getting Cold i will Soon be all right again So if You Care about Coming Home there You Can Gather Enough Money to fetch Me back Next Month My Sister Mary Never Came to bring Me Mail So i Never heard a word from You this Last 2 Weeks I Hope You and All dear Children is Well You Can address My Next Letter to Gonor Po as i will be there Yet Time Emma is very Kind to Me I am the best of the family that Ever Me what Husband the Boys & Sisters What is the Matter with Me Sarah Gunn



CHANGES IN
DONALD GUNN'S
HOME - DEVIL'S LAKE SASK
(GOOD SPIRIT LAKE)





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DONALD GUNN

family with pack rat habits. Grandfather Donald and Aunt Minnie saved all their letters and Dad saved all his, so these provide a good deal of information about the people and the times in which they lived. In this part on John I will try to pick out bits and pieces that might be of general interest to the rest of the family.

John, in April 1902, joined the military force being recruited to fight in the Boer War in South Africa. In a letter from the Balmoral Hotel in Yorkton, N.W.T. dated April 28th, 1902 and sent to his sister Minnie he says in part: "There was a special sermon given in the Methodist Church last night for us. Almost the whole town were there. We got our first lesson in drill yesterday over on the race track. I didn't like it at all. We leave here tomorrow morning. There is to be a big time tonight & tomorrow morning. We will be given a great send-off. There are 17 of us altogether. I see in Friday's Free Press that there are two Gunn's going from the West. Lots of music in the Parlor today, Gram-o-phone, Piano & fiddle. The Robinson boys are in. They are going to wait and see us off. I am going to send some of my things back with them to Joe's."

The men arrived in Halifax on May 5th, 1902. In a letter dated May 6th John tells his father that they don't expect to leave for South Africa until about the 20th as the first transport leaves almost immediately "with 750 men, and about the same nunmber of horses. They were drilled for about four hours today. It was a fine sight to see them all in their uniforms with rifles. There are 616 Western men from Manitoba, N.W.T. and B.C. and we will be known as the 5th Regiment C.M.R's. I know quite a few of the men. There is one Atkinson from Winnipeg. He says that he is a cousin of mine. (Note: If so, he would be a son of Matilda Gunn and John Atkinson). We had a pretty good time coming down. We travelled in tourist cars to Montreal and had lots to eat. And we got the best of fare on the Intercolonial R.R. to Halifax. We will start drilling tomorrow and it may be a week before we get our uniforms."

They actually left on May 23rd. In a letter to his sister Minnie written at 11 p.m. on the 22nd John tells her it is his last night in "Dear Old Canada". He also said: "The bugle will call at 4 tomorrow morning for us to roll out and we will go on board at 9 or 10 a.m. We got all our kit, uniforms, rifles, saddles, etc. about a week ago, and horses were put on board today. This is a great city...it is quite a change from Devil's Lake I can tell you." He sent a postcard to his father on the 23rd saying they were on board the Corinthian in Halifax harbor and that "we left the military camp this morning at 7.30 a.m. and got aboard the trooper at 8.30 a.m. and we will sail at 11 a.m. She is a splendid vessel....goodbye to you all and old Canada."

On May 31st, 1902, he wrote to his sister from somewhere near the Cape de Verde Islands expecting the letter to be mailed from there. He told her, among other things, that they had 600 horses

Compliments of the
Dominion of Canada Army
Work Committee.

JOHN PENMAN, Paris, Ont., Chairman.
J. J. GARTSHORE, Toronto, Ont., Treas.
C. M. COPELAND, 15, Toronto St.,
Toronto, Ont., Secretary.

LETTER FROM JOHN A. GUNN

The Army
Young Men's Christian
Association,
CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

Halifax Committee:
J. C. MACKINTOSH, Chairman.
DR. HIBBERT WOODBURY.
DAVID HERD, - Secretary in charge.
ARTHUR F. BELL, - General Secretary.
Halifax Y. M. C. A.

H. M. Transport "Corinthian," May 31st, 1902.
(near Cape de Verd Islands)

Dear Minnie-

I am now almost 3000 miles on the blue Atlantic, and I guess before this reaches you I will be in some part of africa, but where, I do not know, as yet, but if the war is not all over when we land, we will be sent right to the front to help kill the Boers. I hope that this may, as I am anxious to have one crack at them and know whether I come out right or not. We have had a fine voyage, so far, no bad weather, or anything of that kind to make it disagreeable, and nothing much to do; only look after the 600 horses and ourselves; all I done yesterday was clean 2 rifles in the forenoon and fire 10 shots in the afternoon, and to-day I was on picket. It is just 8 days since we left Halifax, we got a great send off. The wharf was crowded with people cheering, waving handkerchiefs and some crying, we all sung, had fun, whistling and guns firing. The boys were in great spirits, but it did not last long, for before we were nearly out of sight of land one every [illegible] was as sick as dogs, and the next day Victoria Day, we were little better. I will remember this 24th of May as long as I live, as one of the most lonesome days

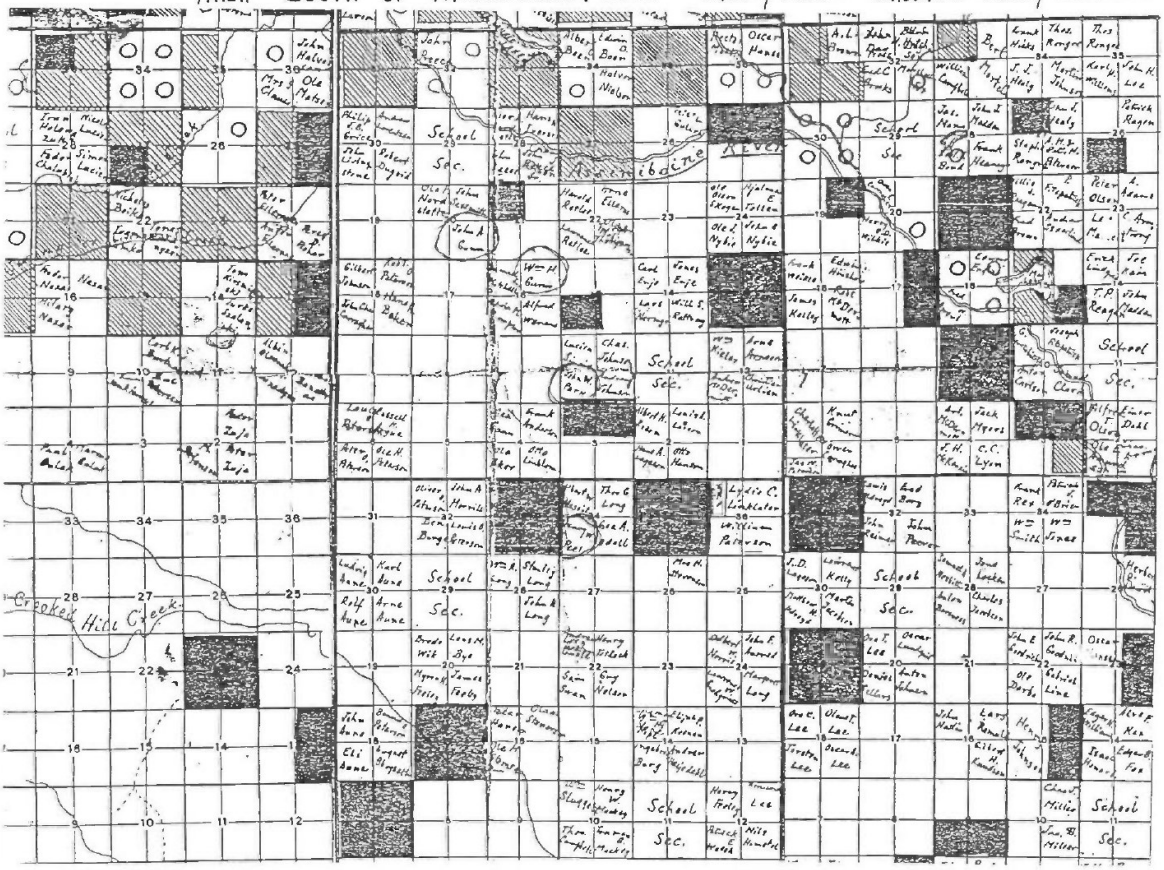
on board that they had to look after and that they were having good weather. He also said: "It is just 8 days since we left Halifax. We got a great send off. The wharf was crowded with people cheering, waving handkerchiefs and some crying, vessels, tugs, and ferries whistling and guns firing. The boys were in great spirits, but it did not last long for before we were hardly out of sight of land everyone of us were as sick as dogs and the next day-"Victoria Day'- we were little better. I will remember this 24th of May as long as I live as one of the most lonesome, dullest, and weary days I ever put in. I have got over it all now and I'm beginning to like the sea."

The Boer war was over by the time they reached South Africa. His next letter from Durban, Natal was dated June 23rd. He had enjoyed the good food and fine weather on the trip from Canada and went on to say: "We were 26 days without seeing land. We arrived in Capetown on the night of the 17th and stopped in the harbour until four o'clock the next afternoon when we left for Durban. We never heard that the war was over until we were almost to Capetown. We will be here for a few days then take the train for Newcastle where the rest of the 4th Contingent are waiting for us. We passed Cape de Verd Islands at night and far to the west so mail could not be posted. We lost ten horses on the way. We had it pretty, mighty, hot for three or four days between Cape de Verde Islands and the equator which was pretty hard on them. Some of the men were pretty sick too."

From the time John Gunn got home later in 1902 it was only four years before he was adventuring again! Not as far from home this time. In 1906 he was trying his hand at farming on S.E.20-34-5-2nd just south of present day Preeceville (This was near his brother Harry's homestead). He would later trade this land for a house in Buchanan that he rented out. That fall of 1906 he was hired by John McNichol of Wadena, Sask. to run a trading post on the Pewei River. He left home on the 1st of November, spent a few days deer hunting with his brother Donald and then went to Wadena on the 13th. The next day, in company with Jack McNicol, Jenkins-'teamster', and Frank Meade-listed as 'vacationist', John headed out.

His diary notes say: "Left for Pewei River at 2 p.m., arrived Nut Lake the next day about noon. Left following day about 11 a.m. Started snowing soon after leaving. Camped at Round Lake that night, still snowing and very disagreeable. Started pretty early next morning. Camped that night about 6 or 8 miles this side of the Stony River. Snow about a foot deep and still more coming down. Road very bad. Had a hard job to get enough dry wood to make a fire. Left next morning and made it across Stony River for dinner, grub getting short, no bread-only salt, bacon and black tea. Started soon after dinner and did not make Fields until after dark. Road very bad, snow drifts and stones. By the way, got stuck in Nut Creek and had to pack most of our stuff out on our backs. Got stuck about four or five miles this side of the Stony River and had to leave part of our load."

AREA SOUTH OF PREECEVILLE, SASK EARLY 1900's SHOWING EARLY SETTLERS



Later in November, in a letter home, John talks about the trip from Wadena being "long and mighty rough. We finally ran out of grub but we are alright now as we have built a house and store 19x25 and two loads arrived today from Wadena. Jack is going to leave at 12 tonight for home and will not be back until about Christmas but there will be some more loads up in about ten days. Meade will be with me all winter if he does not get tired of it before. We have built two miles from the Field boys-north east-in the heavy spruce timber, and about 100 yards from about a 1/2 dozen small Indian houses. There are about 25 or 30 Indians in them, and about 100 dogs. We are about a mile north of the Pewei River and about 12 or 14 miles west of the North Etomamie River. The head Indian here is Long Claws. I remember seeing him many a time around Devils Lake in the olden days. He also remembered me, and knows Papa well."

In a letter dated 27 December 1906 he mentions they have heavy snow, up to three feet on the level, and that Meade is leaving. Their interpreter is now Pelchie from Touchwood. He also says: "The Red Deer Lumber Co. have a camp of a hundred men about 12 or 14 miles east of here, where this river joins the North Etomami, and there will be a small camp about two miles from here next week I believe as they are going to dam the river down near Fields. They will be working at it until spring." He continues: "There are mostly lynx here and any amount of moose. Two Indian fellows went out the other morning and killed two big ones before breakfast. We have lived on moose and lynx meat ever since we've been here."

John spent the winter at his trading post. He made trading trips during the winter. By the end of January he had made one about 25 miles south towards Fulton's mill and another about 40 miles east to the Swan River and then down the River about 15 miles where about 10 camps of Pelly Indians were hunting. He was with an Indian guide and Mark Field with three toboggans and ten dogs. He had mentioned in an earlier letter that "they use nothing but dogs up here, from three to five to a toboggan and they can make from twenty to forty miles a day. You can hear the dogs and the drivers yelling and whips cracking pretty nearly as far!"

John got out to Wadena in March with a dog team. He and Me-gist-a-quon, each with a team, made 55 miles in one day, in a snowstorm, "along the tops of the Assiniboine River to Nut Lake". They brought down 39 lynx, 11 mink, 3 wolves, 2 foxes and one skunk. Snow was deep that winter of 1906-1907. He mentions that "all the Indian horses are dying on the 'Peawye' on account of the deep snow, and no hay. Field Bros. are selling hay to the Red Deer Lumber Co. for $15.00 a ton." It would seem that dog teams were not his favorite mode of transportation. In the same letter he says: "I will have to make a trading trip or two to the Swan River and one to Erwood, and then I will be about through running dogs, I hope."

ARTHUR WHITE - JANE GUNN - JOYCE GUNN
+ MARGARET + JOHN A. GUNN

SEPTEMBER
1937
OLD P.Y. TRADING POST

He left there in early April 1907. An interesting sidelight to John's trading post days comes from Arthur White. He wrote that when his parents went to the P.Y. ranch in 1910 they settled on the old trading post site which was five miles south and one mile west of Weekes. He also mentioned, in the Weekes history book, that many of the Indians knew Donald Gunn and what really helped them get along with the local Indian people was that his mother's half brother, John Gunn, had spent a winter there trading with them. It was 1906-1907 not 1905 as mentioned in the book.

John Gunn thought travel was hard in the bush country along the Peiwei River but a few years later he had even harder trails to travel. After being at home, and trying his hand at farming on the S.E.20-34-5 W.2nd, just south of Preeceville, he left for the Peace River country of Alberta.

As a result of his service in the Boer War he was given a Scrip for land in that area. A clipping, undated, from the Yorkton Enterprise of the fall of 1910 is headlined: "Peace River Valley, J.A.Gunn and Harold Mitchell return from trip of investigation. Canada's Best Land thinks Mr. Gunn, who located his scrip and will live there."

The article went on to say: "Mr. Gunn, who is a veteran of the Boer war, set out to locate his scrip early in April....after outfitting in Edmonton they left on 10th May. The wagon trail is a long and dreary one and it took the travelers thirty days to drive over its 550 miles of sand, muskeg, rock and heavy timber. The route taken was that known as the summer trail via Athabasca Landing, Slave Lake and Peace River Crossing."

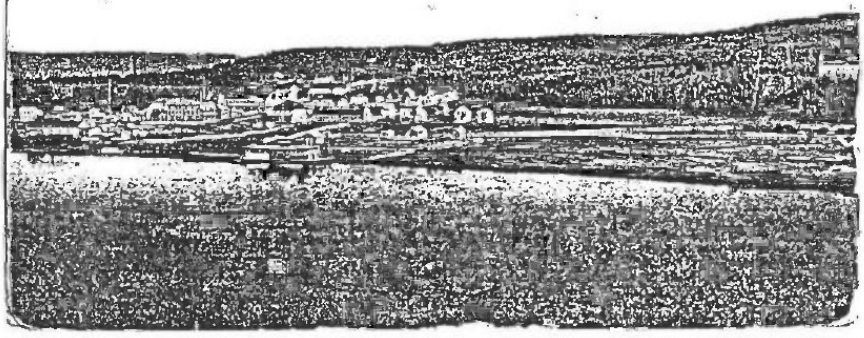
It is a long article mostly decribing the country, but we learn that "Mr. Gunn located his scrip on the Grand Prairie and will return there to live as soon as the freeze-up comes...he left for the return trip on June 22. The return was made via the famous old Klondike trail and a worse one it would be hard to imagine. For 160 miles the travellers did not see a solitary soul and black flies in millions made life a burden."

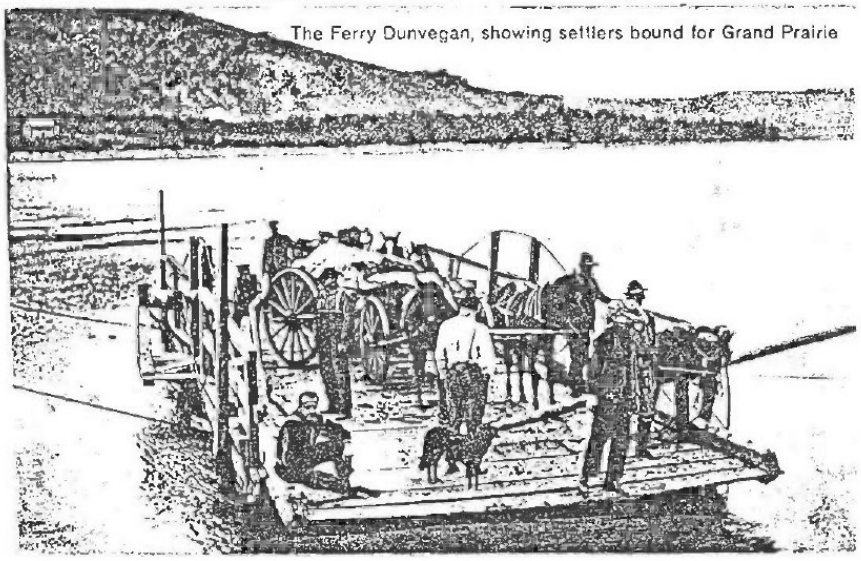
We learn something of the original trip to Grande Prairie in a letter John wrote to his sister Minnie dated June 2nd, 1910 at Grouard, west end Lesser Slave Lake. John says in part: "We arrived here last Sunday evening from Athabasca Landing which is about 200 miles. We followed up the north side of the Athabasca River for 75 miles to where the Slave River runs in and then we went up it abut 45 miles to Lesser Slave Lake, which is another 75 miles from end to end. The road is something terrible all the way from Edmonton.

This is what some of it is like-40 miles of loose sand, 100 miles of heavy timber and muskeg and around the lake two thirds

ATHABASCA LANDING, ALTA.

JOHN GUNN
PEACE RIVER
COUNTRY
1910-1913





The Ferry Dunvegan, showing settlers bound for Grand Prairie

of it is nothing but sand and rock. You can't get away from them either (the rock) as the trail follows the lakeshore all the way on account of thick bush. We've been told all along that the road is better from here on. Peace River Crossing is 90 miles to the N.W. Dunvegan 40 more, Grande Prairie, where we are heading for, another 100. So you see we have quite a way to go yet-230 miles.

We expect to get back here for the 1st of July and home about the 15th. Will go back from here to Edmonton by boat, or saddle-never on wheels again over that road! Everything a big price. Flour $8.00 a sack, tea $1.00 a pound, sugar and salt each twenty-five cents a pound, butter fifty cents and poor stuff at that."

He stayed in the Peace River country, except for spending the winter of 1911-12 at home, until November of 1913 when he returned home after detouring to have a look at the Pacific Ocean at Vancouver. In his many letters home during the three years he spent at Grande Prairie he talked of the gradual growth of the town and the influx of settlers to that part of the country. He talked of the town having grown to about forty buildings. It was only a mile from his "shack". He said that when he'd come to that area "there were only about a dozen old settlers and today every quarter that is any good at all is taken within a radius of ten miles of here." They were looking forward to the day when the railroad would finally reach there. Travel was still hard with the trails not good, but well travelled. He talks of meeting two hundred teams on the trail heading for Edmonton for supplies. He too went there and returned with "a two years grub stake, disk, plough and set of harrows, sleighs, etc." Took him over five days to get as far as Athabasca Landing with a wagon and his 3500 pounds of freight. He was leaving there, using sleighs, for Grouard, the following day and expected in about a week to be there as the ice on the river is good for travel.

As it turned out, by the time he got farther along the trail, spring breakup came and slowed him down. We are used to travel being easy nowadays so it is hard to visualize the hardships of travel before modern roads. In a letter from Grande Prairie dated June 3rd, 1912 we hear something of those times: "since writing my last letter to you from near Dunvegan, as I couldn't get across the Peace for a week or more, I went back 55 miles to Peace River Crossing and struck a job with a farmer for two weeks. Myself and team at $5.00 per day. I then from there made home in ten days with fifteen hundred of machinery and grub. I still have another load back there yet." In late summer, when the roads got better, he made the 140 miles back to Peace River Crossing to bring in the rest of his supplies. It took two weeks to make the round trip.

In 1914 the first World War began and John Gunn's life was to change again, and not for the better. He became part of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles as he was already a member of the 16th

Light Horse militia based in Yorkton. By July of 1915 he was in England training at Shorncliffe, Kent. He mentioned that they still had their horses yet but no saddles so he believed they would be going into the trenches instead of being a mounted unit.

Talking about the horses he says: "We are quartered in floored tents-ten men to a tent-and the horses are tied in long rows to a rope about four feet from the ground, just in front of the tents. One hind leg of each horse is tied to a heel peg, to keep them from kicking each other, and each afternoon they have to be led out for exercise and to graze for an hour or so."

The size of the Canadian force in England kept increasing. He mentions in the same letter that "We were reviewed on the 17th July by Premier Borden, General Hughes and a lot more BIG fellows. Over thirty thousand Canadian troops were in line that day on Sir John Moore Plain....it was one of the greatest sights I have ever seen, Canadian massed bands rendered stirring music, also a massed pipe band for the kilted Battalions when they marched by the saluting point."

Shortly thereafter he was sent to "the Front" and spent the winter of 1915 in the trenches fighting not only the Germans but also the cold, the wet and the rats that went with front-line action. On the 2nd of June, 1916, at the Battle of Sanctuary Wood, the Canadians suffered heavy casualties. Donald Gunn received a telegram telling him his son Private John Gunn was missing, believed killed in action. By the end of June it was learned that he was alive but a prisoner of war at Dulmen, Westphalia, Germany.

His experiences as a prisoner of war are summed up in a letter he wrote to Miss T.H.Bucknum of Springside who shared it with the Yorkton Enterprise. It was published in their February 28, 1918 issue. It was dated Switzerland, January 5, 1918 and read in part: "I arrived here on December 28, from Sprottau, in Schlesia, which place I left on the 6th of December for Mannheim in Baden, where we were detained until the morning of the 27th, and that night crossed the frontier at Constance, after being almost nineteen months 'on the inside alooking out'. Was not sorry to leave Germany I can assure you, as we had a pretty rough time there. The discipline is awful and the food is not fit for a human being, and had it not been for the parcels we were receiving we could never have lived on it."

The letter continued: "I was two months in the camp at Dulmen in Westfalia, near the Holland frontier. I was also five months on a bridge-building job, with a hundred more, on the Rhine, and as the conditions there were very bad I was taken ill and sent to a large hospital in Cologne."

In an article in the Yorkton Enterprise of March 17, 1919 on Private John Harper, who had returned after being a prisoner of war, John Gunn is mentioned and also that 'bridge' work..."he

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

IN CONNECTION WITH THE
COMMERCIAL CABLE CO. COMMERCIAL PACIFIC CABLE CO.
BRITISH PACIFIC CABLE BOARD
HALIFAX-BERMUDAS AND WEST INDIES CABLES
REACHES ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

READ THE NOTICE AND AGREEMENT ON THE BACK

J. McMILLAN,
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal

WDAC MS 1752 - 1918

30 J Ex Adorso Checking Office Time in Am Report

Delay

Ottawa Oct 18 16

Donald Gunn

Cokesbury P.O. Sask Via Springside Sask

Cable received today states 106262 private
John A Gunn Mounted Rifles previously
reported unofficially now officially prisoner
of war Dulmen

Officer in Charge Record Office

War Prisoners in Need of Food

07 SEP 1916

PTE GUNN WRITES THE ENTERPRISE ASKING THAT HIS NEEDS BE MADE KNOWN.

In our issue of August 24 we published the address of Pte J. A. Gunn, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, and asked his friends in this district to send him parcels of food. That we were justified in doing so is proven by the following postal card which we received from him yesterday:

"Would you mind giving my address to anyone that would be kind enough to send me an occasional parcel. The same would be thankfully received and duly acknowledged.

"I am quite well and looking forward to the day when the green hills of the St. Lawrence loom in sight once again. Yours, etc.

"J. GUNN."

Pt. Gunn's Address follows:
Pte. J. A. Gunn 106262
1st Batt. C. M. R.
Co. 7, Barrack 5, Gruppe I,
Dulmen 1 West
Germany.

No postage is required on parcels to prisoners of war and full particulars regarding size of parcels, how to pack, what to send, etc., may be had on application to any postoffice.

We know that this appeal will meet with a generous response from residents of the district and it is well that it should. Even though the number of parcels sent be large, nothing will be wasted for we know that Pte. Gunn will gladly share his gifts with hungry fellow prisoners.

Leysin s. Aigle
Switzerland 19-1-18.

The hotel marked x is my home at present, quite an agreeable change to what I have been used to & can assure you.

Received yours of 15-8-17 on 14-9-17, and will answer it soon giving you some of my experiences. Hope you are all quite well, and best regards

I am Yours Sincerely
J. A. Gunn

Phototypie Co, Neuchâtel.

Agnes Gunn
Prescesville
Saskatchewan
Canada

JOHN A. GUNN

(Harper) was taken to work on the Crown Prince's Bridge across the Rhine, said to be the worst work for prisoners in Germany. The men were kept at the hardest manual labor for twelve and sixteen hours a day, such as digging piers, mixing cement, shovelling earth, etc. and it was here that Pte. Harper met Pte. Jack Gunn with whom he left Canada in 1915. (Note: John was known in the Peace River country and to some of his army friends as 'Jack'). Poor Jack was in a bad way and was shortly afterwards sent to Switzerland, being ill with tuberculosis brought on by hard work and lack of nourishing food."

John Gunn's own account continued..."and after three months there,(Cologne), on the 15th of March last was sent far to the eastward, to Sprottau, in Schlesia. After four months in a hospital there I was deemed well enough to be discharged, to await internment in Switzerland. You will see by this that I have seen a good bit of Germany, and also had some queer experiences. However, I hope that the balance of the journey will be easier going. With a good many more I am quartered in a fine hotel away above the clouds and have a lovely view of the Alps. The food is good and we have spring beds and real sheets, which is quite an agreeable change to what we have been used to."

It was not until May of 1919 that John Gunn finally got home, his health restored but never again strong enough to do all the things he had done prior to his prison camp experiences. Asthma became something he lived with every winter.

By the time he got home his father was nearly eighty and slowed down by advancing age. John took over what had become a very popular summer place--Gunn's Beach. In addition to keeping some livestock he built some summer cabins. Donald had already been renting one out as early as 1916. By 1923 they had four. In later years the number would increase to nine and gradually decrease again with the start of World War II in 1939.

In 1923, after having his Grande Prairie land rented out for a number of years, he finally sold it. Also during the 1920's, along with running a grocery store and the summer resort, John still found time for the army. And time to get married. He attended summer camps of the 16th Canadian Light Horse held at Yorkton and in February 1926 took a three week course in Winnipeg at the Royal School of Cavalry.

Plans were that his wife would accompany him to Winnipeg as their baby was due later in February. As so often happens, babies set their own time table! On the 16th of February, John had to make a hurried trip into Springside for the doctor. By the time he got back the baby was born with only it's grandfather there to give advice! Mrs. Cumming, from Springside, came out to stay with John's wife and baby for about ten days and then she had to get back as she had young children at home needing her. For the next ten days, until John got back from his course in Winnipeg, mother, baby and grandfather were on their own. Everyone

"HALF MILE TO GUNN'S ESTABLISHED 1887"

REGINA LEADER POST 1945

By KEN LIDDELL

YORKTON, Sask., May 25 (Staff Special).—The sign on the board nailed high up in the tree said: "½ mile to Gunn's. Established 1887."

So you puzzle your way through one of those gates they use in the country, drive along a beautifully wooded trail and at the end of it you come to some cottages, some cliffs of white sand and John A. Gunn.

Mr. Gunn was just a boy when his father and two older brothers settled on the shores of Good Spirit Lake and except for a bit of wandering to do a bit of fighting for his country, he has been there since.

In 1919 Mr. Gunn set up a summer resort on the old ranch site. He did this more or less in self defence. People from the adjacent villages would go to the lakeshore for a weekend's camping. Undisturbed by the fact that actually they were trespassing on the Gunn property, they would tell Mr. Gunn that he should open a store, make things a bit more convenient. So he opened a small store and built some cottages.

* * *

The nearest resort to Yorkton, the Good Spirit lake campsite was a thriving summer community for many years. Fish, fur and game were to be found there. In 1932 the Conservative government started a provincial park near the north end of the lake, called it Kitchemanctoe. It was not developed to any great extent, however. The road was not improved and there was no telephone.

This government project had little effect on Mr. Gunn's summer colony. What did effect it was the drouth. Good Spirit lake, named by the Indians, dwindled from a body of water 12 miles long, three miles wide and 20 feet deep to seven miles long, two miles wide and eight feet deep. It is surrounded by cliffs of white sand.

* * *

Mr. Gunn said he wasn't sorry to see the business drop off. The people were beginning to change, too, he said. In the early days they came by buggies and expected little. Latterly, he said, they come from farther distances by car and expected to find things "running from push buttons."

Mr. Gunn said that in all those years he had noticed little difference in summer resort amusements except the people latterly played softball instead of baseball.

Mr. Gunn, however, has seen many changes since that day in 1883 when he was born on his father's homestead three miles north of Fort Qu'Appelle on the old Telegraph Trail.

His father and two older brothers went to Good Spirit Lake in 1887 before the area was surveyed. They squatted on the land and when it was surveyed in 1889 they bought land at $1 an acre.

JOHN GUNN

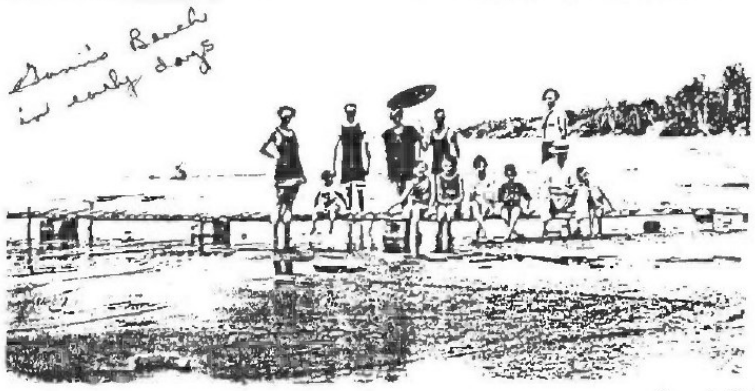
Mr. Gunn's father, Donald Gunn, who died in 1927, operated a Hudson Bay trading post at the lake. He bought furs and old invoices show the company paid $1 to $2.50 for red fox, $1 for wolf, 25 cents for badger and nine cents for muskrat.

* * *

From the trading business Mr Gunn went into ranching and from that to farming. John Gunn struck out for himself in 1902 when he went to the South African War with fourth contingent Canadians.

In 1904 he took a homestead in Preeceville district and the South African script he received in 1908 helped him to "prove up" and he went to pioneer in the Peace River country. In 1914 he went overseas with the First Canadian Mounted Rifles, was taken prisoner at Sanctuary Wood in 1916 and held until the end of the war.

In 1919 he returned to his father's ranch and started the summer resort and, as he said, has "stayed put" ever since.



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Yorkton Enterprise June 11, 1969

Good Spirit Lake subdivision opened

The new Donald Gunn Subdivision at Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park was opened by Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. J. Ross Barrie, in an official ceremony at the park Saturday, May 31. A framed scroll was presented by Mr. Barrie to Mrs. Margaret Gunn, daughter-in-law of Mr. Gunn for whom the subdivision has been named.

Donald Gunn was the first white settler in the Good Spirit Lake area. Born in 1840 at the Red River Settlement, he moved his family in 1882 to a homestead near Qu'Appelle. In 1887, while searching for suitable ranching country, he reached Good Spirit Lake. Here he and his family established a trading post which he ran until the turn of the century. Mr. Gunn ranged his cattle throughout what is now the provincial park on the west side of Good Spirit Lake and cut many of the original trails through here.

Flood Forced Move

In 1903 the homestead was flooded and the family moved to higher ground west of the lake. This temporary camp was in the same general area as the new subdivision. Donald Gunn died in 1927.

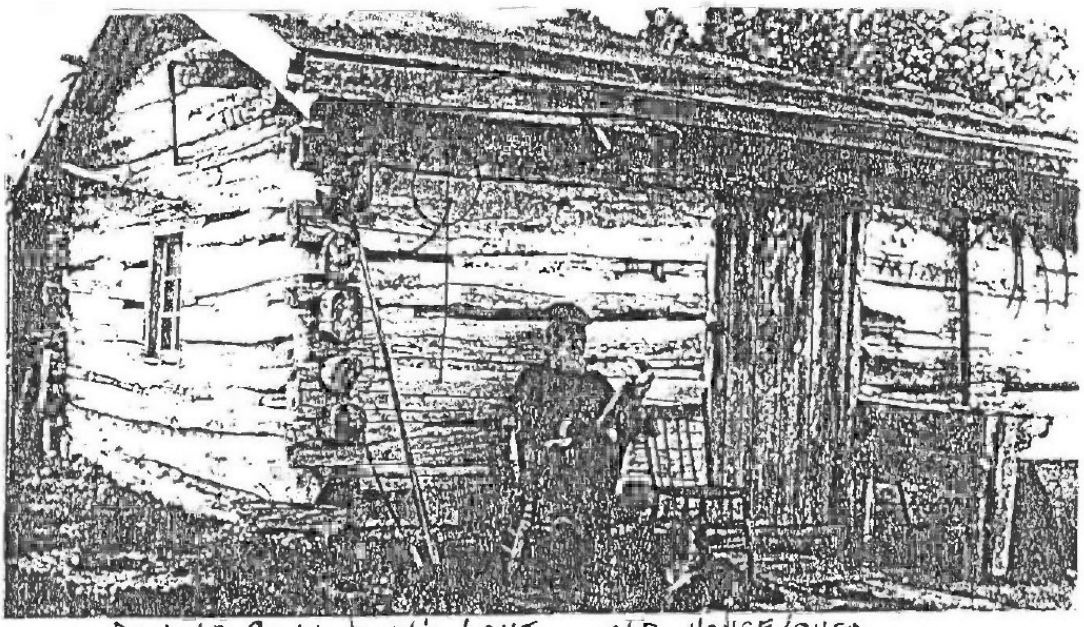
John Gunn, the son of Donald Gunn, married Ruth Walker (formerly of Staffordshire, England) at Yorkton in 1924. They had one daughter, Lillian Joyce. John Gunn took over the operation of the homestead upon the death of his father and for many years this residence was the centre of activity in this rural district. Here the Gunns operated a small store and a rural post office which was established at their residence in the 1930's.

John's wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Lillian Joyce, still reside at the original homestead on the south shore of Good Spirit Lake adjacent to the provincial park.

Attending the opening were Mrs. Margaret Gunn, Miss Joyce Gunn, Mrs. Agnes Potter, Dr. and Mrs. H. Wilkinson, Dr. C. J. Houston, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mogatch, Mr. and Mrs. F. Switzer, Mr. William Anaka and Mrs. Ruth Shaw. Also present were J. Bruce and P. Bergren, representatives of the Department of Natural Resources. The ceremony was held at the residence of V. Laurence.

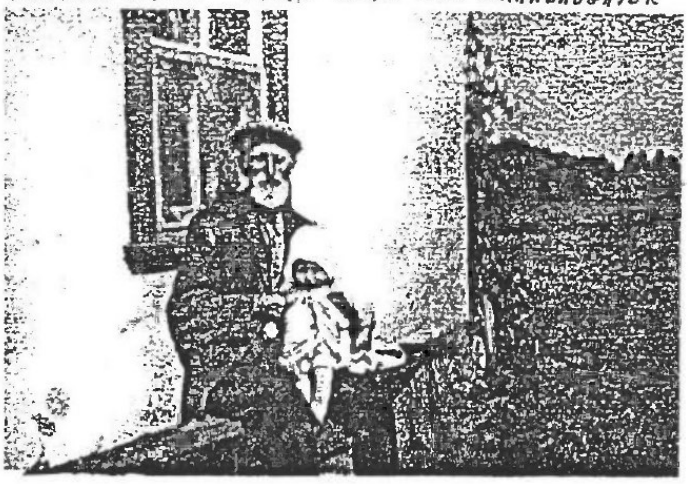
The Donald Gunn subdivision contains 95 lots, nine of which have been leased since the opening.

MAUDE (PARK) PEEL 'BUDGE' PEEL
CAIRN IS IN DONALD GUNN SUBDIVISION - NAMED FOR DONALD WHO HOMESTEADED NEARBY - GOOD SPIRIT PROVINCIAL PARK, SASK



DONALD GUNN, DEVIL'S LAKE OLD HOUSE/SHED

DONALD GUNN 1926 WITH HIS GRANDAUGHTER



survived, and the baby, I, Joyce Gunn, had the distinction of having been born on the Gunn homestead.

John Gunn was also one of the local residents who worked to establish a school in the district just a mile south on S.E.9-29-5 W.2nd. From the time that Black Poplar School #2129 became a reality in 1920 until 1937, when he resigned to take a trip to England, he was the Secretary Treasurer. He was also the postmaster of what was known originally as Kitchimanitou post office when it opened on June 1st, 1935. On January 1st, 1936, after that name proved too hard for many people to spell, it became known as Spirit Lake. He remained as postmaster until his death.

It is ironic that he died on 12 August 1947 at Fort San in the Qu'Appelle Valley within a few miles of where he had been born on 21 August 1883, almost 65 years earlier. It is also ironic that in a letter, dated November 1st, 1925, to his sister Minnie, he said in part: "I took Dad and Maggie to Qu'Appelle on September 15th..I took Dad up to the old place once more..one afternoon we took a drive around the west lake too and it is a pretty place, especially in the fall of the year. The San is two or three miles N.W. of the Fort around the north corner of the lake in a pocket in the hills. Some fine buildings but the site, I thought, was more suitable for a 'Pen' than a sanitorium as it seemed so shut-in like." Little did he know that he would spend the last month of his life there, after a month in the hospital in Yorkton, Sask.

John Gunn had married, on 18 November 1924, Margaret Ruth Walker, known as Maggie, who was born on 15 March 1898. She had come from Staffordshire, England in 1922 to stay with her uncle and his wife, George and Sarah Colvin of Yorkton. John and Margaret Gunn had only one child, a daughter Joyce (Gunn) Anaka. John was buried in the veteran's section of Yorkton City cemetery. Margaret Gunn died on 24 April 1976 and was also buried in the Yorkton cemetery quite close to John's grave. A short distance to the N.W. is the gravesite of Donald Gunn and his wife Sarah.

The second child of Donald and Sarah was Amelia Mary Gunn, known as Minnie. She was born on 12 December 1885 and was only two when the family moved from Fort Qu'Appelle to the Devil's Lake area. Sarah died in 1897 and Donald sent Minnie to live with his in-laws, the Fidlers at St. Paul's parish, Middlechurch, Manitoba.

What a heartbreaking experience it was for a young girl, who had just lost her mother, and was her father's pride and joy, to be sent away from her immediate family to live with virtual strangers. Times were tough, money was scarce and Donald was far away. Her letters home during those first few months tell of her loneliness and homesickness.

August 31, 1897 she writes: "My dear Father, ...the school opened a week ago, I did not go yet. I have no boots. My boots went to pieces, they were no good. I can't go to school till you send me two or three dollars to buy me boots and a book and ink and pen and copy book. The book I brought is no good, there is a different kind used here. Dear papa try and send it as soon as you can. Dear papa I love you and always think of you and John. I would be very happy here only when I think of you and John. Always write to me dear papa. Look after the house right, do your duty round the place for me and dear Mother's sake. I am crying when I am writing to you but I know God will keep you. When I go to school I want to learn as fast as I can for I want to go home and keep you."

By November of that year she finally got to school. She tells her father in a letter dated the 23rd...Dear papa, I received your letter last week with the ten dollars. I really thought that you were forgetting me the way you never sent any money sooner to get my things and books to go to school. You know that it is not like home here. You have to have fine clothes to go to school with. If you had only sent me some money after you went home last summer I would have been learned so much by this time. I got underclothes, dresses and a pair of overshoes and a cap and stockings and mitts. I am going to school now. I am not going to lose a day. I always think of you and Harry and John. I am going to learn fast so I can come back to you."

Her letters got more cheerful, she crossed the river on the ferry to go to school but didn't seem to enjoy the school. At the end of June 1898 Donald went down to see Minnie and took her to live with his sister Janet Muckle who was teaching school at the time. Minnie, in a letter to her brother John, just after Donald had got to Middlechurch, told him that their father was talking of taking her to Muckles but she was going to try to get him to take her home instead.

The move to Muckles at Clandeboye on July 5, 1898, was a good one for Minnie. She talked of the ten-room house, the creek that ran past the house,the seven milk cows and the geese, turkeys, ducks and hens her Aunt had. There were children around her own age, lots of books to read, and everyone treated her like one of the family. The idea of taking Minnie to her Aunt Janet probably came from a letter Janet wrote her brother Donald in early April 1898 in which she said: "I hope Minnie gets to school regularly, she would if she was with me. If you come (to Manitoba) try to bring Minnie with you for I would like so much to see her. I cannot go up to see her as I am tied down by the school except on Saturdays. I am teaching a school for the Indian Department just a mile and a half from our house."

Donald must have written to his sister for Janet writes on May 4th, 1898: "My dear brother.....Your asking me to take charge of your dear little daughter is one of the greatest compliments I ever received in my life. Yes I will take her when you bring her

down, and will do my best to give her a good education. We have a good school two and a half miles from us to which Bobby will be going after the holidays. Bobby was twelve on March 3rd and has been going to Mac's school and to mine this year.... so I will be glad to have Minnie come to stay with us as she will be near his age and they can go to school together.

Alex is pleased to have Minnie and made me write at once to tell you that we would keep her, but he says that you must deliver her in person. He says he would like to see you and there is no reason why you should not come down as you can write and tell us when to meet you and daughter at Selkirk train, and we would send for you, and take you back again....I will treat her as my own and Leta says she will give her music lessons. You would be more satisfied if you came and saw how she liked us all."

Janet taught the school with its twelve students until the end of 1898. When she no longer taught, the school closed, and Minnie and Bobby Muckle then went to the school in Clandeboye. Minnie talked of it being two and a half miles from Muckles and having forty pupils in January 1899. She also said that the teacher taught them reading, arithmetic, drawing, book-keeping, physiology, mental arithmetic, writing, geography, grammar, music, and history of Canada and England. She also said: "He is about the best teacher I have ever had. I am in the Fourth class which is the highest in the school. We have a new kind of reader now, the Victorian." By the end of September she didn't like her teacher "too well-he is too cross."

Minnie stayed at Muckles until May 1900 helping her Aunt Janet and attending school. She talked of there being two churches nearby, an Anglican and a Presbyterian. They attended the Presbyterian which was three miles from Muckles. Most of the time she was happy and enjoyed going to school but each spring she expected her father to come for her. His letters kept encouraging her to stay in school. In one he said "I am more than pleased with myself for having taken you down to stay with Aunty because I know that she will learn you to be clever at school and at cooking and housekeeping. Papa will be dreaming of some nice tarts when you come back."

Sometimes it took more than encouragement to keep a young girl happy. In a letter dated Clandeboye, August 13, 1899, Minnie tells her father: "You said in your last letter that you would send for me in August and now you don't want to send for me till next winter. I want to go home now and I won't wait till next winter. I am not going to school any more, and even if I do go, I won't learn anything. Please write and send for me at once."

Before Donald had a chance to answer the letter he had one from his sister Janet saying: "You will be anxious about Minnie as she wrote to say that she was homesick. Well she was so sure that you would come, and looked out for you, that she did get so.

YORKTON ENTERPRISE, TUESDAY MARCH 29, 1927

Donald Gunn Oldest Pioneer Died Saturday

BORN AT SELKIRK, MAN., IN 1840 —SETTLED AS RANCHER AT DEVIL'S LAKE FORTY YEARS AGO.

The remains of the late Donald Gunn of Devil's Lake, whose death occurred on Saturday, were brought to Yorkton last evening and will be interred beside those of his late wife, who was buried here in Yorkton cemetery thirty years ago.

The death of Donald Gunn removes one of the best known pioneers from this section of Saskatchewan and also one who was intimately acquainted with the development of Western Canada during the past century. He was born at St. Andrew's, now Lockport, Man., on May 27, 1840, his father being the late Hon. Donald Gunn, member of the first Legislature of Manitoba, and his mother the daughter of Chief Factor Swain of the Hudson's Bay Co., with headquarters at York Factory.

Cradled and nurtured amid the historic beginnings of the West, it is regretable indeed that the extensive knowledge he possessed regarding the beginnings of things including the inside history of the Riel rebellion, were never chronicled for the information of coming generations. Although his father was the author of the first history of Manitoba and although the late Mr. Donald Gunn would reminisce for hours on past developments, he would never consent to be interviewed for publication.

The late Mr. Gunn had been in failing health for the past few years and a week ago Sunday contracted a cold which he was unable to throw off and which developed into pneumonia, which caused his death. Had he lived he would have attained the ripe old age of eighty-seven years on May 27 next.

The funeral will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3.30, when service will be conducted at Christie's undertaking parlors by Rev. R. H. MacKinnon of St. Andrew's United church. The pall-bearers will be six old neighbors and friends, Messrs. W. D. Dunlop, G. H. Bradbrooke, John Livingstone, Duncan McLeod, Jos. Robinson and J. W. Large.

At the age of thirty-six years the late Mr. Gunn left Manitoba and came west to the Birdtail Creek where he engaged in sawmilling at a point thirty miles northeast of the site of the present town of Birtle. He spent five years there, when he moved to the Qu'Appelle Valley and took up a homestead. During the Reil rebellion he freighted supplies between Fort Qu'Appelle and Batoche. Drought and frosts led to his abandonment of farming and forty years ago he settled at his late home at Devil's Lake, securing possession of the land later under squatters' rights. Here he has lived continuously ever since and has seen this part of the country develop from the ranching stage to that of a prosperous mixed farming area. He was one of the best known men in Eastern Saskatchewan. All who visited Devil's Lake, a popular summer resort adjacent to his home, made his acquaintance and he was ever the same, courteous, kindly and hospitable. He was a life-long Presbyterian and Conservative.

He leaves a family of two sons and three daughters to mourn his loss. Messrs. George Gunn of Preeceville and John Alexander Gunn of Devil's Lake and Mrs. Arthur White and Mrs. J. W. Parks of Preeceville and Miss A. M. Gunn at home.

L. I. D. COUNCILS HOLD MEETINGS

Jan 6 1910

And Appoint Sec-Treas. and Chairmen—G. Gabert and J. Wylie Are Successful in Securing Jobs

The local improvement district on the northeast of Canora held a meeting on Monday at the Canora hotel and appointed councillor Pollock chairman. J. Wylie got the secretary-treasurership at a salary of $275.

On Tuesday the councillors of the local improvement district which was previously gazetted as Devil's Lake municipality, but later on reduced to its original standing, held a meeting in the Canora hotel at which P. F. Peterson, of Theodore, was elected chairman, and councillor G. Gabert, of Ebenezer, was awarded the position of secretary-treasurer at a salary of $250 per year. This council also decided to meet at D. Gunn's, Devil's Lake in future. Jas. Carson, of Ebenezer, was present and urged the claims of G. Gabert for Sec-treas. J. F. Paul Barschel of Canora, also sought the position but his figure was not as cheap as the southern aspirant.

And then I did not let her work much, but just let her enjoy herself. She got very tired of reading. Since I have kept her busy she is very happy and as school begins next Tuesday I do not think she will think more about going home. Holidays lasted seven weeks this year and that was rather long. So I think you had better write her a firm loving letter and tell her she is old enough to know better and you think it best for her to be at school another year. She says she had only to cry and run after you and you took her home. If she was here another year she could manage very well. She is such a good clever girl it would be a sin to take her when she has a good teacher." She concludes her letter: "Talk to Minnie like a woman when you write and give her good advice."

Donald took his sister's advice and between them they persuaded Minnie to stay until the following spring. Donald's letter to Minnie read in part: "Your letter came to hand telling me that you were disappointed at my not going down for you but I hope that you are now over it and going to school again. You see how much better it is for you to be able to write to us when you feel disappointed and lonesome than it would be if you could not write or read anything. I am so glad that you are where you can get some schooling and I hope that you will take advantage of it and learn all you can. I promised to get you up this month but would like you to stay till spring, if you will only do so. Write me and as you know that learning is for your own good I hope that you will decide to stay with Aunty till then."

He concluded his letter to her: "I hope that you will write to me oftener as I am always glad to get a letter from you and will be much contented when you do get back to us. If I took you away now you would have no school to go to here in winter. I think I could get along without you for the winter, but must have you back in spring as I want you to look after Dairying." He had told his sister Janet in a letter that Minnie was his pet, his favorite. He called her his little Biddy and her first letters to him when she was so very lonely and homesick were usually signed "Your loving daughter Biddy."

She came back to Devil's Lake in May of 1900. With her brother John being away so much, and her brother Harry dying in 1906, she was in charge of the house. After John got back from overseas in 1919 she had a chance to go back to Manitoba. During part of the 1920's, from at least 1923 until late 1926 she worked at various places, among them Knowles Home for Boys in Kildonan, and at the Middlechurch Old Folks home as a cook. She spent a year or two at the lake just before and after the death of her father before she went back to Manitoba. She never came back to Devil's Lake and after 1938 no one heard from her. Searches of Manitoba Archives and Vital Statistics have failed to provide a date of death or place of burial.

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This line continues in 2025. The main lines are from George Gunn 1870-1943 / Jane Ahdemar 1868-1943, Annabelle Ellen (Nellie) Gunn 1872-1959 / Arthur White 1866-1928 and Margaret Frances Gunn 1876-1964 / John William Park.

Chapter Thirteen – Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain tenth child Robert

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

TENTH CHILD

ROBERT

The tenth child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was Robert Gunn who was born on 18 May 1842, baptised on 23 June 1842 at St. John's Church and died on 02 November, 1843. He was buried at St. John's cemetery on 09 November 1843.

Chapter Fourteen – Donald Gunn / Marget Swain eleventh child Janet

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

ELEVENTH CHILD

JANET

The eleventh child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain was Janet Gunn, born 09 March 1846. She attended Miss Davis's school for young ladies and taught at Little Britain. She inherited her father's interest in the world around her and accompanied him on some of his collecting trips for the Smithsonian Institute. And, fortunately for us, she was a letter writer who wrote to her brothers and passed on family news and also news of the community around her. Without her letters to her brother Donald, and Donald being a letter-saver, we would know much less about our roots!

Janet attended Miss Davis's school at St. Andrew's. She talked about there being a long table with the first class on one side, the second class on the other and Miss Matilda Davis at the head. As she got older she helped with the teaching at the school. Janet often went with her father on his various expeditions collecting specimens for the Smithsonian Institute. She was fond of learning and began studying Latin and French while quite young so it was natural that she would later become a teacher.

In her own words in the book Women of the Red by W.J.Healy, Provincial Librarian of Manitoba, published in 1923, she said: "In 1868, after I left Miss Davis's school, I was appointed teacher in the school at Little Britain. Before long I had a hundred children in that school, some of them big boys, but I managed to keep order without having to use very often the willow stick which I had within reach of my desk. I was big and strong then, and weighed more than a hundred and seventy pounds." Apparently the parents paid five dollars a year for each child and money paid in the settlement for marriage licenses, etc. was divided among the teachers to help to pay their expenses.

She married Alexander Montgomery Muckle on 06 February 1874 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church. She actually taught school that day until 3 p.m. and was married at 5 p.m. He was a banker and graduate of the Royal Military College and came west with the Wolsey expedition in 1868. He had later become an Indian Agent. After their marriage they lived for a time at Riding Mountain. Janet used her knowledge of the Indian language that she had learned in the settlement to teach the Indians near her new home. She remarked that they liked to have her read them stories from the bible. The Muckles then moved to Clandeboye. Alexander

1/10/88

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S1-11

NAME	JANET GUNN	SPOUSE ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY MUCKLE	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	09 MARCH 1846 ST. ANDREW'S	QUEBEC	FAMILY BIBLE
Marriage/Place	06 FEBRUARY 1874 ST. ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH		
Death/Buried	06 NOVEMBER 1930 ST. PETER'S	14 JANUARY 1908 ST. PETER'S CHURCH	FAMILY LETTERS
Occupation	TEACHER HOMEMAKER	INDIAN AGENT/ FARMER	
Religion	PROTESTANT	PROTESTANT	
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	MUCKLE/MARY MONTGOMERY	

	sex	children	birthdate / place	marriage date / spouse's name	death date / place
1	M	JOHN McBURE MUCKLE	17 APRIL 1875 MANITOBA	UNMARRIED	
2	F	LETA MARGARET MONTGOMERY MUCKLE	1877 CLANDEBOYE, MANITOBA	31 AUGUST 1898 DONALD GUNN	1914 CLANDEBOYE, MANITOBA
3	F	ANNA HOLLINS MUCKLE	25 JUNE 1879 CLANDEBOYE, MANITOBA	1919 JOHN ELLIOT	
4	M	ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY MUCKLE	14 MAY 1880 CLANDEBOYE, MANITOBA	KATHLEEN BOYD	
5	M	ROBERT JAMES TENNANT MONTGOMERY MUCKLE	03 MARCH 1886 CLANDEBOYE, MANITOBA	HANNAH ESTELLE JENSON	
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Muckle made trips to various Indian reserves and at times the family went along. In September 1889 they went in Colin McIvor's boat to Brokenhead and Fort Alexander. Their daughter Anna remembered as a child going with her father to the reserves along Lake Winnipeg in a two-masted sailing boat, with a cook.

Alexander Muckle died 14 January 1908 and was buried at St. Peter's cemetery beside his mother and sister. His mother, Mary Montgomery, had been born in County Down, Ireland in 1814, came to Quebec to marry and came west as a widow in 1872 with her children. The address on a letter written by her daughter, in September 1889, was Wildwood Cottage, Clandeboye, Manitoba. Mrs. Muckle lived in a small house, built for her by her son, on Muckle's Creek next to Janet and Alex and according to Janet was still alive in 1893. She had a daughter, Mary Emily Montgomery Muckle who had been born, like Alexander, in Quebec and another son, Robert, who also came west. According to church records in the Manitoba archives, on 07 June 1889 a Mary Moore Muckle, died of congestion of the lungs. Mary the daughter (known as Minnie) died of influenza on 20 January 1890. Both were buried at St. Peter's church cemetery-reference St. Peter's Dynevor Burials 1888-1913.

Janet Muckle's letters were filled with family news and news of the community in which she lived. As an example, her letter to her brother Donald, dated December 31st 1893, read in part as follows: "I could not get to church tonight as it is dark and snowy and Donald is up to his fathers with our quiet horses and the colts are rather wild so I will spend the evening writing to you. Sandy's Donald has been staying with us for about 14 months and will stay all winter. He has gone up to wish his mother a Happy New Year, and Leta has gone with him to visit at Uncle Johns. I will not finish my letter until they come back so I will give you the news about them as they will be back tomorrow evening before the mail closes.

Our people all over the country have all had influenza, some had inflammation of the lungs and all sorts of chest troubles but I am very thankful to say that all our large family got over it very well. Even Mrs. Muckle Sr. at her advanced age was only poorly for about a week, and she is now in splendid health and does not seem a day older since you saw her last."

Janet continues the 1893 letter: "Our cousin John Smith was given up by his friends this fall as they all thought he would die, but he is getting better now I hear. He lives at Selkirk. His daughter Sarah was married to a young man named Stevens who left her with four or five young children and never came back. Sarah became a Woman's Keeper at the Asylum under Dr. Young and has been there for over twenty years. She gets about $25.00 a month and helps her people finely as they are not very well off. Mrs. Smith, Betsy, is quite blind. Mrs. S. Ballenden, Betsy Sam, is quite well again. She almost died this fall from inflamation of the lungs. Willie, her son, keeps a ranch of 60 head of cattle

on his land, HB grant, at Netley Creek and is doing finely." (Note: 'Betsy' was John Smith's wife and 'Betsy Sam' was Elizabeth Smith, John's sister, known as Betsy Jane, who married Samuel Ballendine or Ballenden. The Smith's mother was Mary Anne Swain, a sister of Margaret Swain who married Donald Gunn. And Samuel Ballenden was a son of George Ballenden. George's brother James was Caroline Ballenden's father. She became a daughter-in-law to Donald and Margaret when she married their son Donald).

Back to Janet Muckle's letter of December 31st, 1893: "John McLeod is now living near Wm. Philips on Jackfish Creek. You would not know that country now. There are houses all along the Jackfish Creek right up to the ranch where T.Truthwaite used to be. A schoolhouse four miles north west of this called Wakefield and on from the ranch a fine Presbyterian Church and, farther west, a large settlement called Norwood at Catfish point with a fine school house. Then south all the country is settled, another school house at Pigeon Bluff called Cloverdale. The people from along the Red River have settled all these places and are doing well. Crops were good, beef plentiful but prices are low and almost no sale for anything except potatoes, oats and eggs."

The letter continued with news of people they knew and ended by saying that Donald and Leta had got back and everyone was well. She also mentioned: "Alex (her husband) is well and writing at office work every day. He is not out in the reserves as he has 10 schools returns to check in triplicate now as the quarter closes on the 30th December. He has some fine schools, six in St. Peter's." She wishes her brother and all the family a Happy New Year. In a New Year letter in 1899 she added the wish: "May you have a prosperous and happy New Year and may your shadow never grow less."

The Muckles lived along Muckle Creek. In a letter of March 1894 Janet mentions that: "We are going along in the same old groove, just making a living, and in the same old shanty you saw us in before you left. But, as the foundation is all gone, we are going to build a new house in the spring. We had our potatoes badly frozen this winter in the house cellar so we will try to have a new one as soon as we can. We got the logs from out at Willie's place a year ago."

She talked about missing her two brothers, Donald and George who as she put it were "so far away from the rest of us. We others can have the pleasure of seeing one another now and then." She also told Donald that "you should be thankful that you are so comfortable out there as times are very hard in Manitoba and indeed all over the world at present. The distress in great cities is very great. We should be thankful for peace and plenty and all the other blessings we enjoy.

I see by the papers that you have services on Sunday near you. I hope you are all churchgoers like our dear father was. Our school house, Presbyterian, out west is just three miles from us

and down the creek. We have service every Sunday by the English Church. The children go there every Sunday morning and I go with some of them at seven in the evening to hear our man who is a student who is stationed in our settlement." She concluded the March 20th, 1894 letter by saying "Thank those dear children for sending me the cards. I will send a book to each of them soon."

There are no letters available for the period from March 1894 until April 1898 but they evidently did build their new house for Minnie Gunn mentioned the large house when she went there in 1898. Janet's brother Donald must have written saying he was thinking of going to the Peace River country for in a letter of April 1898 she writes: "So you too are going to the Peace River district. Hay is very scarce in this vicinity as so much was burnt at Beausejour last fall, but we will get on all right as the snow is nearly all off and the cattle are feeding out now. I hope that all will turn out for the best and that you will have success in your new venture, 'never venture, never win'. We sometimes think of going to the Peace river as the climate is so fine there. We have no hayland and are too cramped for land where we are unless we move our dairy on the other side of the river." The dairy was moved to the other side as there is mention of it in later letters as being there.

The small house they had built for Alex Muckle's mother was rented out in November of 1898. Janet says: "We are to have an ordained Minister from Scotland in a week or more. We are going to rent him Grandma's house and it will be very nice to have them so near. It will do us good to have such good company so near."

It would seem that Janet Muckle got along well with all the family, and usually had good things to say about them, but at times her sister-in-law Emma, John's wife, sorely tried her patience! In a letter of October 2nd, 1898 she writes: "I was up to see our brother John just three weeks before he died and had a good long talk with him. He said he would not live very long. He had his will made and was quite resigned....I did not go up to the funeral, neither did Willie. I did not feel like going so far and it would have done no good anyway. I tell you they found fault and critized my dress, and everything else, and I said if they all died I would never go up to see one of them, but since then I took some of it back as John is a splendid fellow (Note: her nephew John), and Mary not bad."

After Minnie went to stay with her Aunt Janet, Janet took her, in October 1899, to, as she put it: "see them all at Sandy's, John's and Jamie's and to see the church yard, old home and everything. Emma wants her for a week or two, they were so kind to her." About ten years later, in a letter to her brother, Janet said of her sister-in-law: "I had a lovely visit at Aunt Emma's with Mrs. McNabb in January. Emma Sr. is as bright and nice as can be. Old age has softened the acerbity of her temper, and she is so jolly and kind, even forgets to say 'you are so ugly'."

Janet Gunn and Alexander Muckle had three sons and two daughters. The first-born child was John McLure Muckle born 17 April 1875. An insight into the affection felt for his daughter is seen in a letter from Donald Gunn to Janet dated Winnipeg 26 April 1875. It read in part: "My Dear Mrs Muckle-We have had a short note, on Saturday, from Miss ditto in which she says "I suppose you have heard that Aunty Janet has a son."

The letter continues: "If so, may God bless Aunty Janet and her son, and all who are interested in them. I hope you are well and your son and that he will be preserved to you and you to him and become a mutual support and blessing to each other." He concludes the letter by saying he doesn't know when he will be home and "I hope to hear from someone or other of you by tomorrow's mail-and have a confirmation of the good news with the additional good news that you and your son are getting on well. Excuse haste. And believe me-My dear Daughter, Your affecte. Father, D. Gunn, Senr." That first-born son, John, known as McLure or Mac never married.

He attended Manitoba College during the winter of 1897-98. During school holidays that winter he was hauling sturgeon from Lake Winnipeg into Selkirk. In October 1898 his mother said "Mac was away on a threshing gang at $1.00 a day trying to raise funds to go back to college with at the end of October. He is a great worker and a good son." Unfortunately that winter his parents could not afford to keep him at college and he worked at home. His cousin, Minnie Gunn, in a letter to her father Donald in December 1898, said that: "Mac is going to make a bee on Wednesday for hauling hay. It is about ten miles down from here. In a letter dated August 19th, 1899 Janet said that "McClure is in business at Beren's River, bookkeeper for Ewing & Fryer." In October of that year she said he had been home for two weeks and had returned to Beren's River for another six months.

In February of 1900 he was home and his mother said he was not going back to the lake, but in July of that year she did say that he was carrying the mail to Geyser, 30 miles beyond Gimli, and it was very hard work with awful roads. His sister Leta in a letter to her cousin Minnie said that he had been "carrying the mail between Icelandic River and Selkirk since the first of July, he only has two more trips as he will not carry it after this month (September)."

In a letter dated March 22nd, 1901 Janet told Donald that: "Mac is away for the C.P.R. who are locating a line from Elkhorn through the Qu'Appelle Valley. He took Dick & Dock, a wagon and bobsleigh. He will be off a month or perhaps two." By September 1902 she mentions that he is at home grubbing and clearing land for next summer's sowing. In 1909 he was staying at home with his mother and was the Councillor for Ward Four in the Muncipality of St. Andrew's. In a letter of 1927 Emma Gunn (daughter of Emma and

John Gunn and McLure's cousin) said he was living at home with his mother Janet.

The second born child of Janet Gunn and Alexander Muckle was Leta Margaret Montgomery Muckle. Leta was born in 1877. She lived at home until 1898 when, as decribed by her mother Janet in a letter to her (Janet's) brother Donald in October of that year-- "Minnie and I are getting to be great chums as we do the work together and then walk down to, and up from, school together. Leta took French leave on the 31st August and went away and married Donald Gunn, Sandy's son-they never asked or were refused leave to get married. It grieved us all very much. They are staying at Sandy's and we have not seen any of them since. I guess Leta is afraid or ashamed to come back." All must have been forgiven for a letter dated 09 November says that "Leta was down to see us the other Sunday. She was looking well."

In December they came down for her sheep and cattle. In October 1899 Janet writes: "Donald has gone to the Lake for six months so I got him to bring Leta down, cows, sheep and all, for the winter. We are so glad to have her. Minnie has been getting music lessons from Anna all summer and now Leta will go on with the lessons." In her letter of February 1900 Janet noted that Donald was back from the lake and was there with Leta and looking out for another job.

Leta in the letter to her cousin Minnie in September 1900 that was headed "Wildwood Cottage", told her that: "Donald went away out on the lake for the Dominion Fish Company a week after you left (Note: Minnie left in May), and only came back a month ago. A week ago he went out to Portage La Prairie and when he came back he went out to make hay with Will and Alex. They went north of Uncle Willie's place. Ben is away to the Portage to work so Don is going to help the boys finish their hay-making. We bought our hay, some for $1.50 and the rest for $2.00 per ton. Don thought of going away again so did not intend to make any hay."

Leta continues: "We are having such terrible rains here, about twice a week on the average. Some of the potatoes are beginning to rot in the ground, and the farmers can't get their crops cut as the machines will not work in the mud. The other day father tried to cut his oats and the big wheel of the binder made a drain about two feet wide and two deep. Ma has no garden this year and she misses it very much. I picked about four pails of green tomatoes yesterday to make soy. I made such a lot of jam this year, raspberry, blue- berry, cranberry, plums, red chrry jelly and saskatoons."

Leta talks about people they knew and about her sewing and concludes: "I am going to get my organ down soon now and Don is going to send for a sofa so we will soon be very comfortable. Donald likes living by ourseves best he says, but it is alright when he is home, but when he is nearly all the time away, I find

the time kind of a way long. Do you know that we are now staying by ourselves in the other house? I papered it all new and got white lace curtains for the windows. Ma is only milking eight cows now as she let Judy dry for beef and Mac sold Tiny and her calf. My cow is nearly dry now as she will calf before Christmas. Uncle Sandy gave me a fine cow, a present, this summer. Wasn't that a good present?"

Leta's mother Janet wrote on 7th September 1902 that "Angelique (Donald's mother) is down visiting Leta who is staying in Grandmother's house. Leta is going to their own homestead next to Ben's in two months. They have six cows and I think will do well in a home of their own. They have a fine baby boy nine months old named Alex Henry Montgomery-we called him Sandy." They stayed on the homestead until the Spring of 1909 when they moved back to her grandmother's old cottage. By then Donald was working on the St. Andrew's Locks.

In a letter dated January 17th, 1910 Leta told her cousin Minnie "we have four children, Sandy, aged eight, Rita six, Donald Robert four and Archie McClure two, and we are really blessed with four healthy bairns." The children, with their full names were: Alexander Gunn, Angelique Marguerite (Gunn) Light, Donald William Robert Gunn and Archibald McLure Gunn.

Unfortunately Leta did not have many years in which to enjoy her young children. She died in 1914.

The third child of Janet Gunn and Alexander Muckle was another girl, Anna Hollins Muckle, born 25 June 1879. Anna was the scholar in the family. Almost every letter of Janet's talked of Anna at school. It was a struggle for the family to find the money to send her to Winnipeg but each year they managed it with help from others and Anna herself.

In the fall of 1898 she was in the senior preparatory class. Her Uncle Donald must have asked Janet what it cost to send a girl to Manitoba College. He was thinking of sending Minnie there too. Until he found out what it would cost him! Janet told him: "The College fees are $9.00 a term, three terms in a year, so $27.00 and board is about $12.00 a month outside. They do not board girls in the College. Boys pay for board and room $13.50 a month, fees the same. Anna pays $9.00 a month as Mrs. Jones keeps her for less as they come down here at times for quite a visit.

So one would have to pay about $120.00 for board and fees, then clothing and books would cost a good deal more. Uncle Bob (Note: Alex's brother who was working in Vancouver at that time) said that he would put Anna through College himself. Of course I had to clothe her nicely, and help her to get books, etc. He paid board and fees until 1st January when he never paid any more. She got a present in January of $10.00 from a cousin at home and she paid the fees for that term with that. And for last term she has taken some money that she had in the Savings Bank. But that

leaves several months board for me to pay that I did not expect, five months in all. $30.00 still to pay."

In a letter of July 1900, after Minnie Gunn left Muckles to return home, Anna wrote her and said "If I can raise some money I will go to Normal for two months this fall and get my second class professional and be able to teach as it is going to be a very hard winter, no hay and no crops."

In March 1901 Janet wrote "Anna went awway to Normal school on the 7th January and only got home on the 8th March. She would like a school but has none yet. She taught at Netley Lake for 2 1/2 months at $40.00 a month which went to pay her expenses at the Normal." The next year, in September 1902, Janet wrote that "Anna is at the Collegiate trying for 1st Class Certificate, she will be there till 1st July next year."

Leta wrote to Minnie Gunn in January 1910 and at that time Anna was in her last year at Manitoba College and expected to receive her B.A. in the spring. In an article by Lillian Gibbons in 1954 on Anna Muckle that appeared in a Winnipeg newspaper we learn that Anna got her matriculation in 10 months, part of two winters, and taught in between. In 1906 she entered the University of Manitoba. She took her normal training, four months at a time, in old Mulvey school. She taught in collegiates at Morden, Altamont, Melita, Oak Point, Cartwright and Elm Creek. After her marriage to John Elliot in 1919 she taught in Cloverdale and Lockport.

She married John Elliot. They had no children but in the above article Anna talked of raising "Captain Robert Muckle from the day after he was three". Emma Gunn in the letter of March 31st. 1927 said that Janet's "youngest daughter is married and has a place across the creek from her, but Annie leaves her husband to keep house and she teaches school."

The fourth child was Alexander Montgomery Muckle, known as Monty, later as Alex,who was born 14 May 1880. He married Kathleen Boyd and they had one son and three daughters.

As usual, news of Janet's children come from her letters to her brother Donald. We learn that "Monty is working in the C.P.R. workshops, and draws enough pay to keep himself going now. He pays $15.00 for board and washing a month. In October he will get ten cents an hour." This was April 1898. In October 1899 Janet wrote: "Monty is busy at his work. He has finished his three years apprenticeship and now gets $1.30 a day."

In a letter of September 16th, 1900, Janet says "Monty was home for a few days last month as all the men in his work shop were on strike. When he went to town he got a job with a Gas Company and got $2.50 per day. He worked for them until the strike was over then went back to the C.P.R." In 1902 he took a

Part of letter from Janet Muckle to her brother Donald.

Clerendebogo
7th Sept. 1902

My dear brother,

You may before now have seen by the papers that another of our family circle has left us. Poor Sandy has been feeling poorly for about six months, sometimes from indigestion and lately from heart trouble, Dr Grain was treating him for the latter disease and he was getting quite over it when he was stricken unconscious with hemorrage of the brain. he never

4

he was laid to rest alongside dear Carrie with room for Angelique at his side. I think we all should give $5.00 each and have an iron railing around the Gunnis plot. John is buried some distance away along north wall of church and Joe Johnstone near by. It was very hard loosing another brother so soon after dear Georges death. I did hope and plan to get a pass through Monty and go to see George, but never knew he was so poorly. I did expect you and Minnie down last summer to the exhibition, but you

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month off and used his railway pass to visit Vancouver, Seattle and Portland.

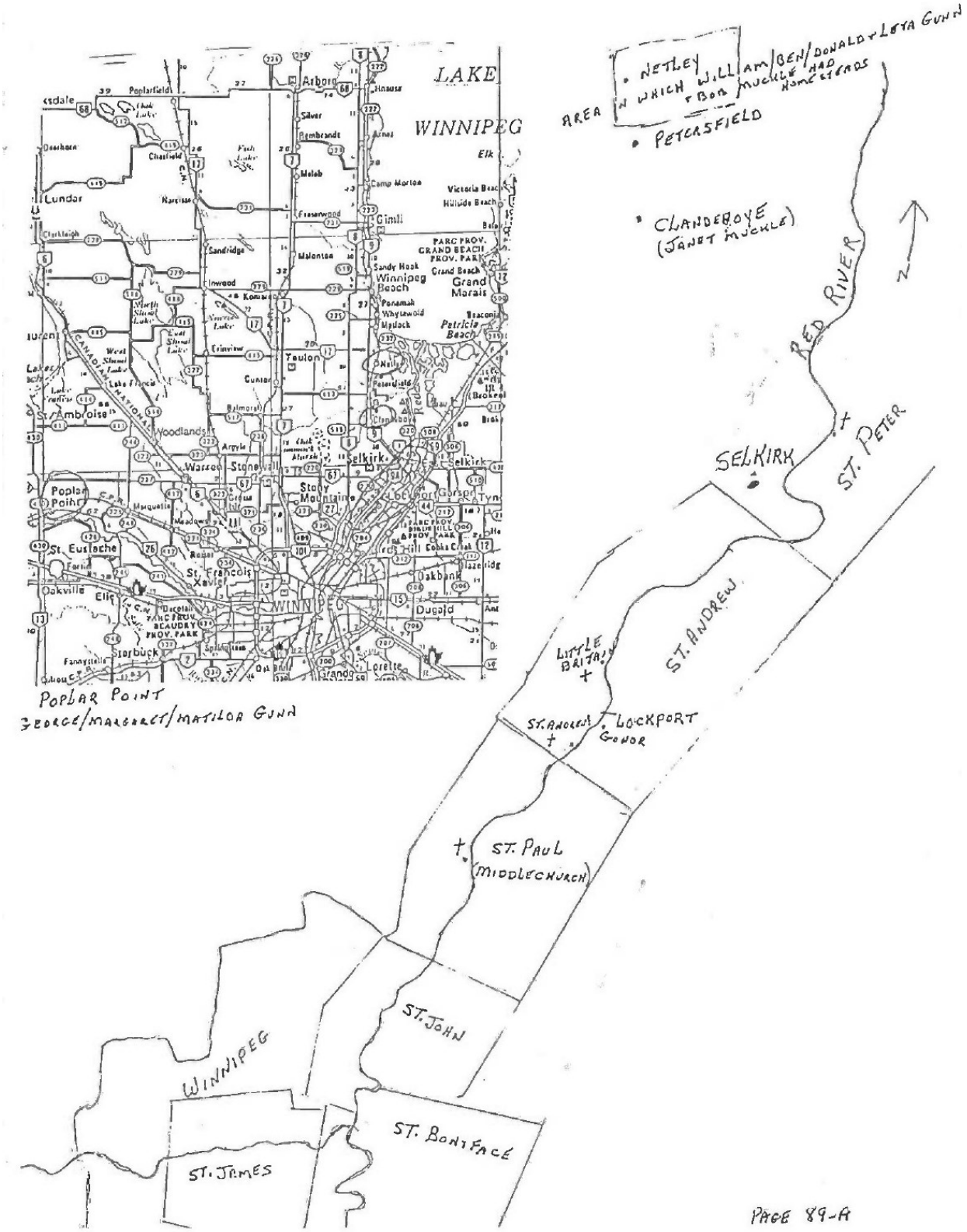
In early 1910 Leta wrote that "Monty is in Winnipeg still working for the C.P.R. He is married and has a very nice wife and two children, Leta age two and Monty eight months old." Just about the same time Janet wrote that "Monty, or Alex as he calls himself, has a wife, daughter, and son and is living in a swell suite of rooms at Iona Court, Winnipeg. Kate his wife is a nice fair girl from Glasgow and Scotch at that." There were two more girls born into the family. The three girls were Leta (Muckle) Marshall, Audrey (Muckle) Macdonald and Lorraine Janet (Muckle) Somers.

The youngest child of Janet Gunn and Alexander Muckle was Robert James Tennant Montgomery Muckle referred to by his mother Janet in letters as Bobby. He was born 03 March 1886 and when Minnie Gunn went to stay with her aunt and uncle she and Bobby went to school together as they were almost the same age (Minnie was born in December 1885). There is mention of him in Janet's letters as to how he is growing and "is slender and as tall as his father." In Leta's letter to Minnie in 1910 she said that Mac and Bobby were at home with their mother and "are such good boys and so good to Ma."

Bob Muckle took out a homestead near his cousin Benjamin McKenzie Gunn (Alexander and Anglique's son). B. McKenzie was on N.W. 1/4 of 30-16-4E and said in a letter dated Woodfield P.O. 4th February 1909, "Mrs. Muckle has not been very well, but she was able to come up to my mother's funeral (on 26th January). Her youngest son Bob is down here on his homestead about a mile north and a mile east of my place." Janet said a year later that Bob had a "house, etc. but is nearly all the time here."

Janet's son Bob married Hannah Estelle Jenson and they had one son, Robert Montgomery Muckle. In March 1927 on the death of Donald Gunn at Devil's Lake, his niece Emma Gunn (daughter of John Gunn and Emma Garrioch), wrote a letter of sympathy to her cousins Minnie and John. In it she said: "Our Aunt Janet is 80. I was to see her twice last summer, the last time was when her son Bob's wife died. She died of consumption, left one lovely little boy. It was very sad. Aunt Janet was quite smart. Her eldest son Maclure lives at home, a bachelor." This was the same letter in which she said that Anna was married and lived across the creek from Janet.

In January of 1910 Minnie Gunn had a letter from her cousin Leta. Leta referred to Janet: "Mother is beginning to look old and also feels very much so at times. I am afraid she is getting to be a poor hand at taking time to write." We now know of course that she lived for another twenty years and although there were no letters of hers saved after 1910, she undoubtedly wrote occasionally to her brother or her niece.


LAKE
WINNIPEG
Arborg
Gimli
Lundar
Sandridge
Inwood
Teulon
Woodlands
Warren
Stonewall
Selkirk
Stony Mountain
St. Eustache
St. François Xavier
Oakbank
Dugald
Oakville
Elie
Starbuck
Poplar Point
GEORGE/MARGARET/MATILDA GUNN
AREA IN WHICH WILLIAM/BEN/DONALD & LOYA GUNN & BOB MUCKLE HAD HOMESTEADS
NETLEY
PETERSFIELD
CLANDEBOYE (JANET MUCKLE)
RED RIVER
SELKIRK
ST. PETER
ST. ANDREW
LITTLE BRITAIN
ST. ANDREWS
LOCKPORT
GONOR
ST. PAUL (MIDDLECHURCH)
ST. JOHN
WINNIPEG
ST. BONIFACE
ST. JAMES

PAGE 89-A

Much of that last letter from Janet, because it talks of her family, relatives and the community, is included here even though parts were used earlier. It is headed Clandeboye. 20th March, 1910, and is addressed to "My dear brother Donald, Your kind letter of 3rd February came to hand and gave me much pleasure. I am lazy to write but I love dearly to hear from you all. I had a long letter from you soon after Alex's death. I got about forty from B.C., Ontario, New York, Ireland, Winnipeg, Quill Lake, Maymount and elsewhere and never answered one, it was too painful. I did lose such a good kind loving husband.

After awhile I thought it was wrong to fret as we were so many happy years together. He left a will, written by himself, leaving me everything he owned, home, land and all. Mac and Bobby manage the farm and are very kind and good. They go in for selling hay, own a baling machine and made about 200 tons last summer, have half to bale and sell yet.

Mac has 160 acres bought from C.P.R. north of Kingsbury's ranch and Bob a homestead at Woodfield near Bens'. Has a house, etc. but is nearly all the time here. Donald and Leta have four fine children. They left their place last spring and are now living in Grandmother's old cottage which is very comfortable. Ben will give you the news about them. Monty, or Alex as he calls himself, lives in Winnipeg with his wife and son and daughter.

Anna is in her last year in Arts at Manitoba College. Will be a B.A. in May, and that is all the legacy I can leave her. It has been a great expense keeping her at College, board and room over $20.00 a month, fees at entry $39.00. At end $8.00 for exams and $10.00 for B.A. I do not know how we managed it but she will be through the four years at end of April and can teach high school or in a college."

Janet continues her letter with "I am in good health, just a little grey underneath where it does not show. I was 64 last 9th of March. I had a week's visit from an old friend, a Mrs. McNabb, who was the first one in the Manse at Little Britain, and she said I had not changed one bit in manner or looks, only was a little thinner than 40 years ago. We went to see Dr. Young at Selkirk who is in poor health, Peter Young and wife, Mrs. Johnstone and John Gunn's people, then she went on to Winnipeg and I came home. Mr. McNabb died eight years ago. (Note: This was the Rev. John McNabb who, in 1869, was at the mission that Rev. Black had established at Little Britain. In the early 1870's the MacNabb's went to Palestine (now Gladstone, Manitoba) to take over the Presbyterian congregation there). She gave me a very pressing invitation to pay her a visit at Lucknow, Ontario this summer. A big lot are going from Winnipeg and they think they can go for $20.00 for the round trip and a stop over of six weeks. I had a letter from Ella Gunn, John's wife, (Eleanor Flanagan-John J.'s widow) asking me to stay a week or two with her. I may go, Mac is anxious for me to go and Anna too."

Janet's letter of March 1910 also said: "We are two miles from Clandeboye Station. We are getting a bridge built over our creek on the township line, just near our stable, so our cows will have good feed across the creek. We have a creamery at our station so we are getting ahead. We have a Manse, and minister and family there too, Post Office, etc. Mac is a municipal councillor and spends some time looking after the affairs of the country. Roderick Ballendine has three or four children, his wife died three years ago very suddenly of abscess of the brain. I hope Minnie is well. What good company she must be for you, she is so clever and bright. I did miss her so much when she went home but hope she will come to visit us on her wedding trip or before. She would get a good welcome from her old Aunty.

We have a neighbor over the creek where Mrs. Norquay used to live, a Mrs. Creighton who has been there four years in April. Her husband died last January and she advertized her place for sale. She was offered $30.00 an acre, cash down, and refused to sell, but she is renting the place, at a good figure I suppose. Uncle Bob (Note: Alex Muckles's brother) is living across the creek in a house I built for a dairy when I had the cows across. He keeps chickens. He may go west in May again. I have not the family tree as the Gunn's of Gonor got all of them. I wish I was with you to read those books you have, your affectionate sister Janet." She added a P.S. "Can you write as long a letter?"

Janet died on 06 November 1930 and is buried in the Muckle plot near the front walk of St. Peter's Anglican Church on the east bank of the Red River north of Selkirk, Manitoba. From the walk, and old boat landing below the church, one can look up the river towards St. Andrew's parish where Janet was born eighty-four years earlier.

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This line continues in 2025 with many descendants from Leta Muckle 1877-1914 / Donald Gunn 1867-1962, Alexander Muckle 1880-1960 / Kathleen Boyd b. 1883 and Robert Muckle 1886-1951 / Hannah Jenson 1895-1926.

Chapter Fifteen - Donald Gunn / Margaret Swain twelfth child William

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

DONALD GUNN\MARGARET SWAIN

TWELFTH CHILD

WILLIAM

The last child of Donald Gunn and Margaret Swain, their twelfth, was another boy born 17 August 1848. Their first born son, William, had died in 1842. Probably to keep the name of Donald's father in the family this last born son was also named William. He was baptised at St. John's Anglican Church on 17 October 1848. He married Catherine Ann Mowat who was born on 26 November 1857. She was a daughter of Edward Mowat and Jane Norquay. They were married at Little Britain in 1876.

William farmed for a number of years on Section 1-16-4. His post office address was Dunara, Manitoba. In 1880 his nephews, Donald J. and George, ages twelve and ten, sons of his brother Donald, were living with him. The boys mother, Caroline Ballenden had died two years previously and in 1880 their father was on the Birdtail River in western Manitoba running a trading post and sawmill.

From Janet Muckle's letter of December 31st, 1893 we learn of William: "Our brother Willie was here for two nights on his way up and down last week. He sold over two ton of beef this fall at four cents a pound. He had 94 head of cattle. I went out in November with Angelique to see them and found Kate looking so fat and well, with two dear little boys, so pretty and bright. The oldest is named Willie, the youngest is Alexander Montgomery. Dan or Donald is a fine big fellow, taller than his father. That is all the family. They are very comfortable. Willie was deputy returning officer at the last municipal election and went in with the ballot box."

In a letter three months later, March 1894, Janet, in passing on family news to her brother Donald, again talks of their brother William-"Willie has three boys. Donald is about 16 years old, a fine strong fellow but he has hardly ever been at school. I am not sure that he can read or write. Then the next is William about five years old and the youngest Alex Montgomery, about two years old. Kate is well and does more outside work than in, I think sometimes to Willie's discomfort."

In February 1900 she said that "Willie is trying to sell the old place. He got an offer of $1100. for it. There is a mortgage of $650. on it and the M.Coy are trying to get it. "A month later

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FAMILY GROUP CHART NO. G/S 1-12.

NAME	WILLIAM GUNN	SPOUSE CATHERINE ANN MOWAT	REFERENCES:
Birth/Place	17 AUGUST 1848 ST. ANDREW'S, RRS	26 NOVEMBER 1857 KILDONAN, MAN	Family Bible
Marriage/Place	1876 LITTLE BRITAIN CHURCH, ST. ANDREW'S PARISH, MAN		
Death/Buried	26 AUGUST 1917 SHAUNAVON, SK	06 JUNE 1950 SHAUNAVON, SASK.	Amy Johnstone
Occupation	RANCHER		
Religion			
Other Spouses			
Father/Mother	DONALD GUNN/MARGARET SWAIN	EDWARD MOWAT/JANE NORQUAY	

	sex	children	birthdate / place	marriage date / spouse's name	death date / place
1	m	DONALD EDWARD GUNN	02 DECEMBER 1877 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	UNMARRIED	NOVEMBER 1954 / SHAUNAVON, SASK
2	F	MARY JANE GUNN	OCTOBER 1879 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	DIED IN INFANCY	26 AUGUST 1881 / ST. ANDREW'S
3	m	JAMES GUNN	MARCH 1881 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	DIED IN INFANCY	03 APRIL 1882 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA
4					
5		THREE MORE DIED IN INFANCY			
6					
7	m	WILLIAM GUNN	02 JULY 1888 / ST. ANDREW'S, MANITOBA	UNMARRIED	09 JUNE 1969 / SHAUNAVON, SASK.
8	m	ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY GUNN	22 MARCH 1891 / SELKIRK, MANITOBA	26 JUNE 1916 / RONNA MARIE HARDENNE	20 APRIL 1959 / SHAUNAVON, SASK
9	m	VICTOR JOHN GUNN	22 JUNE 1897 / GUNVIEW, MANITOBA DURBAN P.O.	FEBRUARY 1920 / ANNIE GUNN	21 JUNE 1975 / MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA
10		NOTE: 'GUNVIEW' WAS	HAMLET (33-15-2 E) N.W. OF	SELKIRK. CHANGED 1906	
11				TO 'GUNTON'	
12					

FROM JOHN GUNN, GONOR MANITOBA OCTOBER 26, 1897 TO HIS BROTHER DONALD DEVIL'S LAKE

P.S. We threshed last week 64 Bush. Wheat 196 Oats 144 of Barley J. G.

Since writing the above our brother Willie has come to see us. he is looking well. but paid his wife was sick but not in good health, he appears as if he was satisfied with his success in 16 yrs. he has 100 head of Cattle, which is a large stock for this part of the county. he said the drainage of the Big Bog is proceeding finely and will be completed this fall, and like every one else is anxious about their Municipal indebtedness. J. G.

Dunara
June 25th 1900

D. Gunn Esquire

I write to ask you if hay is plenty[full] near you and if I could get about 300 load to make sure we are all well but I have a swollen hand and find it pretty tough work to write I am mailing a long letter to our brother George and will write giving you the news as soon as this hand gets all right.

reply soon for there is no hay in this part of the country

I Am Your Brother
Wm Gunn

she updated Donald with "Willie has not sold that place yet. He is paying up on the mortgage, $625.00 is all is on it. He is paying about $300.00 now so he will hold on to it until the locks are building as they are to be made soon." The "old place" was their father's lot and partly built stone house mentioned earlier. It had been left to William.

In June of 1900 there was obviously a shortage of hay in the area as in a letter postmarked Dunara, Manitoba, and dated 25 June, William writes to his brother Donald who was already ranching at Devil's Lake, Saskatchewan, asking if "hay is plentiful near you and if I could get around 300 loads to make." He concludes "reply soon for there is no hay in this part of the country." Just about the same time Janet wrote to Donald and said "Willie talks of going to Swift Current with his cattle as there is no hay here."

That shortage of hay led to William going out to his brother George's ranch about forty miles S.W. of Swift Current. In a letter of 17th September 1900 to her niece Minnie Gunn, Janet told her: "Uncle Willie went with two car loads of cattle to Swift Current about a month ago to stay all winter, and if he likes the place he will come for his family next spring and live out there. That is, if Aunty Kate will go. She is working hard at home with twenty or more cows."

He went to his brother George's in July 1900 to look at the country and to see what was available for hay. He evidently liked what he saw. His brother George took him to a slough with about 200 loads of hay growing in it. The slough was just about dry so he went back to Manitoba and by the end of August brought 80 head of his cattle to George's ranch.

He goes on in his letter dated 26 December 1902 to his brother Donald "A few days after, we started out to make hay wholesale. We took several barrels of water with us and got to the hay slough on Friday evening and it was a clear lake of water. There had been a very heavy thunder storm passed through there that beat down the grass and filled the slough with water. Saturday we went east to the Eagle Quill Lake to get some whitefish and came back to his place on Monday. (The hay was 6 miles south of George's place and Eagle Quill lake about 10 miles east). The next day George & I drove west to see what hay could be got. It was very poor and rainy weather. After quite a lot of hard work I got about 40 loads of very poor hay made and I bought about 6 loads. George's son Donald made 4 loads, making a total of 50 loads."

William continues: "I never felt more like giving in and selling my cattle than I did then. To think that there was only 50 loads of hay for about 100 head of cattle and 5 or 6 horses was about too much for me. George said it was far more than there was any need for. We fed all that we did feed to the calves while

we were weaning them, and the horses we were working, and had twenty loads of the hay over. I lost no cattle from the want of feed but lost some cows through being horned. George had a white cow from you that had no calf and was as wicked as a bear. I think she did the mischief.

I went down in July for my family and the balance of the cattle and got back here about the first of August. Had to spend a good deal of time looking for my cattle, George's family let them stray away while I was away. And had quite a lot of drawing from Swift Current 36 miles from here. We got 80 loads of hay made that summer, the most of it first class. We wintered about 28 calves (I sold six in the fall. 34 was all we had that summer of 1901) and we had five horses in all winter. We wintered in all about 110 head of cattle and the five horses and had plenty of hay. We had about 70 head of cattle that only got a few feeds.

I think that brings us to the spring of 1902. We had 46 cows that raised their calves. Last summer I sold two of the cows for milk cows with their calves for $45 each and sold ten calves for $150.00 last fall leaving me 34 calves to winter. I had 58 cows that should have calved last spring. Some of them slipped their calves and some of them was not in calf. This last summer we made 130 loads of hay, all first class. We are wintering 119 head of cattle and we have eight horses in all the time eating hay. We will not use 30 loads by the first of January. I have two brood mares with their colts running and three others, young horses, making in all 15 head. We have 73 cows that should calve next spring. Three slipped their calves already leaving 70 to hear from yet.

You wish to hear of how I like the place. I could not wish for better. There is thousands of cattle that winter without a bite of hay or any shelter, unless they get on the lea side of a hill, and are in good condition. They are better than those fed on hay and stabled. There is always a chance of the snow being deep and getting crusted that they could not root for the grass so that a person with a few cattle is better off having some hay.

A friend of mine wintered 120 head of cattle and one horse last winter and he says he only used 18 loads of hay. He hauled all his hay in as he was making it and only required a saddle horse. There is plenty of hay to be got and plenty of good springs. I've got my house about thirty feet from a very fine spring. It is pretty high up in the hill and keeps open for about sixty yards from where it comes out of the bank so that we never have to open a water hole or shovel a bit of snow or repair a pump.

This is a very fine place to live. Ducks are in thousands in summer and chickens are very plentiful. The boys bring in six or more a day whenever they want for they are in the thousands. Antelope is scarce close but plentiful about thirty miles to the south or north. Good springs are plentiful. Wood is rather scarce

here. There is no timber for building and only a limited supply of poor wood for fuel. There is plenty of coal about twenty-five miles south of this.

If you are thinking of coming up here to ranch you could get a good spring and good shelter about one and a half miles from my place. Kate would like very much that you come and bring her Auntie Lizzie with you. She finds it rather lonely here but thinks this is a very fine place to keep cattle. The thermometer has not been below thirty below zero since I have been here, and a great deal of the time it is very below freezing, we have fine warm days. The first winter I was here we had two weeks of November, a few days about 1st January and from 20th January to 20th February was all the winter we had. Last winter we had it cold for about two weeks in December, about the time of George's death. It was the only bad spell we had. I suppose Donald let you know of his father's death. He, George, died from cancer of the bladder. Our brother Sandy died on the twenty-fifth of last August.....27th. 1 a.m.I will quit and go to bed."

After that long letter from William the only news of him came from their nephew Ben at Dunara Post Office, Manitoba, when in a letter of 22nd December 1903 to Donald Gunn he said he'd had a letter from his Uncle Willie who had had quite a loss 'last spring'.

Donald's next letter that he saved from his brother was headed Gull Lake, February 6th, 1906 and read as follows: "Donald Gunn, Sr. I have been thinking of writing you for a long while but scarcely know what to write. We are all quite well and doing fairly well. We are having a very nice winter. We have had only two weeks of cold weather and haven't fed any hay to the cattle so far and we are only two weeks from the time we got spring last year. The farmers are crowding in and they raised extra good crops of wheat and oats. Wheat 35, Oats 80 per acre and I think ranching will soon be a thing of the past in this part of the country.

I am having to talk and write same time. I have been driving around preparing a voters list to use in electing a member to take Scott's place. You will know as much about it as I do through the paper. I am disgusted with the action of some of the reform party. Write soon and let me know how you are and any of our friends. I never hear from any of them except Bennie and he seems to be too busy to write much about other folks. You would have heard of the death of our brothers George Dec 13/01, Alexander Aug/03 or 04, James Jan/05. Kindly write soon and oblige."

Donald answered the letter in February and William replied on March 31st: "My dear brother. I received yours of the 21st February on the 25th of this month at Swift Current. I am living about 40 miles south-west of Swift Current and about 18 miles from Gull Lake which is the Post Office that I get my mail at.

The George Gunn horses are about all gone and I don't know that you would be able to buy horses here to sell again and make anything out of them to pay you for your trouble. Mr. MacGillary, foreman at the farm Gull Lake, sold a bunch of about 20 a few days ago at $40.00 per head. Mares two, three and one year old, and good teams, will sell as high here as anywhere else, between 250 and 300 for a team that will plough. Farmers are filling in like musketoes and are ploughing away. We had very little winter and cattle and horses are fat.

I am over in the Gull Lake district with my wife visiting some of our friends. We are having very fine weather, only very dry. Donald, George's son, is only got about eight head of horses and he will soon drink them. He is very little use, only drinking whiskey and loafing. George's daughter C.J. Gunn married one J.W.Bird and took down about twenty-five head of horses and they are all gone. Catherine and husband are back here to see what they can do here. Catherine thinks very little of that northern country. George's other boy, William James, is starting on the downward course too. George did not impart any of his good qualities to his sons.

I like this part of the country well and I am enjoying very good health. I weigh 180 pounds. Kate is always talking of Manitoba as the chosen land but she does not seem to lose much flesh. She weighed 155 pounds so I think she is not losing much. I feel ten years younger than when I came up here. The boys are with us yet and are quite well.

I have had quite a lot of bad luck since I came here. I lost 36 head of cattle in one storm three years ago in May (1903) and we have been troubled with abortion in our cows. We have 127 head of cattle. Over 80 cows to calve this spring. Twenty-three head of horses, six mares to foal this spring, and very little else."

William continues his letter: "If you could come up to visit us we would be very much pleased to see you. I could meet you at Gull Lake station if you wrote about two weeks before you came. You say nothing about your family. How are they all and do you take a drink of whiskey yet? Bennie (Note: his nephew-Sandy's son) is the only one that I ever hear from of our friends and I sometimes hear from old Edward Mowat and his son Tom Mowat. I will be writing to Janet today and I may hear from her. I wrote her once before and never got a reply.

We used about 100 loads of hay last winter and we kept all our horses round home and fed them some at night. Kate is wishing to know if you are still thinking of her Aunt Lizzie. I heard a report after writing you that you had died so you can judge that I was more than pleased to get your letter.

He concludes his letter of March 1906 with "If a person staying here in winter had the money to buy horses they could be got very cheap when the Halfbreeds are hard up. But just now,

with the farmers coming in, and it being nice and warm, they are very independent. Do you ever hear of W.R.Gunn of Melfort? I was told that he died first of last winter. With best wishes from this pile of Gunns to you and your family, I remain, Your brother Wm. Gunn."

The next letter is dated Gull Lake, Sask. January 7th, 1907 and reads: "D. Gunn Sr. I received your welcome letter the other day and was very glad to hear from you. We are all quite well but having a bad time of it. We have lots of snow. It started with rain on the morning of the 16th November last and finished with about a foot of snow. The rain froze on the grass and covered it with ice so that the cattle can't feed themselves. We are wintering 165 head of cattle and twenty-nine horses. The horses that we are not working are feeding themselves and seem to be doing fairly well.

The farmers are coming in pretty thick. Shanties are going up on the bench and they are having a hard time. It is chiefly Scotch that are settling round us and seem to be very nice and friendly and want to make me believe that I am Scotch too.

I haven't heard from any of our Manitoba friends for quite a time but I will be going to Gull Lake in a few days and may have a letter from Ben or old Edward and if I do will let you know how they are. We were all very sorry to hear of Harry's death. All the boys are staying with us yet. You must be lonely with only Minnie with you.

Beef is worth six cents per pound in this part of the country. There was fine crops raised near Swift Current, about 35 bushels of wheat to the acre and from 60 to 90 bushels of oats per acre. I think we will have to go further from the railroad as the farmers will have the herd law in force. Kate sends you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hopes you may get her Aunty Lizzie yet.

George's family are going to the dogs as fast as a toboggan would slide down a hill. They have only about forty horses from all that George left behind him. Donald has about seventeen of the forty and may do something for he was drinking very hard but got a scaring last summer and quit, so he may do better now. The old woman is not very well and Catherine J. married a Jos.W.Bird from Prince Albert. They are staying with the old woman and they have made away with their share of their horses. William J., George's son, eats and sleeps, seems to be his chief occupation.

Horses are just as high in price here as anywhere else and scarce. One would have to go further west or to Montana to get horses that would be cheap enough that it would pay to buy them for sale again. What horses a person could pick up round here would be too light for farm work and there are no horse ranches within forty or fifty miles of this place. I am on Section 36, Township 11, Range 17 West 3rd Meridian." He finished the letter

on January 11th by saying "I came over to Gull Lake yesterday and had to stay over with a snowstorm. Will be trying to go home tomorrow. I did not get any letters from Manitoba so can't give you any news. Ben and Donald are staying about five miles north of where I was staying in Dunara, Manitoba. I will write you when I hear from some of our Manitoba friends."

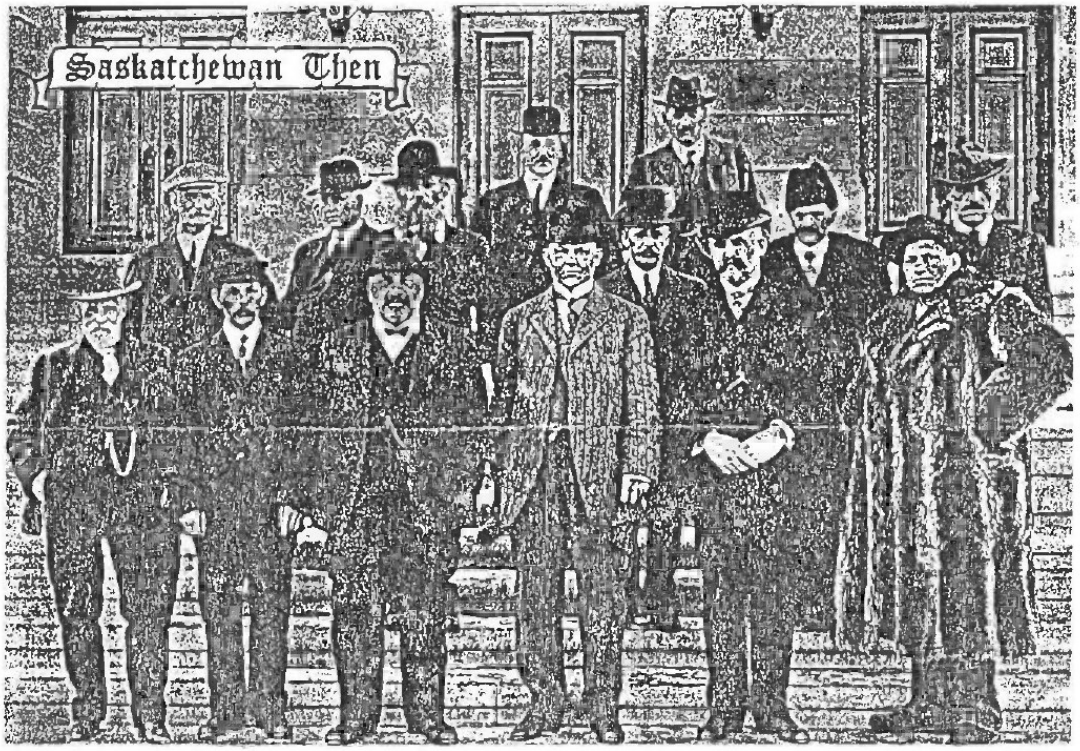
Neither Donald nor William wrote during the rest of 1907 until December. William writes on the 29th: "My Dear Brother, I received your very welcome letter about two weeks ago and was glad to hear from you after your long silence. We are all quite well. We had a very hard winter and lost twenty-three head of cattle, seventeen cows, two Galloway bulls and four yearlings in the spring. We had a very cold long spring but are getting paid back with a very fine fall. The thermometer only down to zero once and keeping about freezing point. I am very busy butchering and selling beef to the farmers. They are getting very close to us and I may be crowded out very soon. We haven't fed our cattle yet. I haven't heard from any of our Manitoba friends for nearly four months. Will write as soon as I hear from any of them. With best wishes of us all to you and yours, Your brother Wm. Gunn."

Donald did not save, if he got any, letters from his brother William during 1908 and 1909. Their nephew Ben, in a letter to Donald of 4th February 1909, said he had not heard from Uncle Willie for three months.

There is a letter from William dated Gull Lake, Sask, March 3rd, 1910 saying he'd had a letter from Donald and "was very glad to hear from you. We are all well and I think about through with winter. The snow is nearly all gone and the thermometer is forty-six above zero. We have a very fine winter and had 140 head of cattle that we did not feed any hay to. I sold a lot of beef last fall at eight cents per pound but did not have any money to spare to go to see my friends. I would like very much to see you. Kate was down to Manitoba to see her friends and she says that her Aunty Lizzie is quite nice looking yet.

Dan and Willie are taking up homesteads about forty miles south of this on the Whitemud River so we will have a very busy and expensive summer. The land is all taken up round here by the farmers so we will be going out with the boys with all the stock, 231 cattle, 47 horses and 14 sheep. We have had three very good winters including this one and if we have one or two more I may have a few quarters to rattle.

The farmers had great crops in this part of the country from 30 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre and oats from 50 to 100 per acre. Flax about 20 bushels to the acre. George's daughter, C.Jane died about the last of January. She was married to one W.J.Bird from Prince Albert, a son of Nicolas Bird of Prince Albert. There is too much talking going on in the house. I will quit. With best wishes to you all."



Delegation of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers' Association at a meeting in Regina, probably late fall of 1913, looked like this. The delegation sought provincial intervention in relation to rural municipal taxation on grazing lands. Group includes: Sam Briggs, Elm Springs; Hugh McKellar, Editor, Saskatchewan Farmer; Ole Olafson, Mortlach; S. R. Moore, Swift Current; Hon. George Langley, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Wm. Gunn, Nummela; J. A. Sheppard, M.L.A., Moose Jaw; Joe Wylie, M.L.A., Maple Creek; Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture; C. Ange, Willow Bunch; Treffle Bonneau, Willow Bunch; and Robert Cruikshank, Rush Lake.

(Photo Courtesy P.F.R.A.)

The next letter from William is from Nummola, Sask. dated March 4th, 1914. This time it is addressed to "Donald Gunn, Esq., As it is quite a long time since I heard from you or of you, I am writing to let you know that I am still alive and well. Kate and the boys are all well, none of them has married yet. We are still keeping cattle and have nearly 400 head of cattle and 120 horses. We are renting rough land from the Dominion Government at two cents per acre and have twenty-five sections.

I haven't heard from any of our Manitoba friends except Bennie for quite a while. I get the Selkirk Record and a great many of the oldtimers have crossed the big divide for good. I haven't gone to visit since I came up here in 1901 and may never go. George's two sons, Donald and William J. Gunn are staying near Swift Current, neither of them any use to themselves or anyone else. Their mother is living with them. With best wishes.."

He followed that letter of March 1914 with another written a month later in April. This one was addressed to "My Dear Brother" and said "I received your very welcome letter about ten days ago on Sunday night and I had to start Monday morning to Swift Current Land Office to lease grazing land. I and the boys have twenty-nine sections about leased and Willie is applying for three more sections, so with school and H.B. lands we will have a whole township.

I am very thankful to you for your kind offer re my visiting you. How would it be if we reversed it. I will be very busy this summer. We have our lease to fence and will be trying to break some land to grow feed as hay is very scarce. There is a new railroad about twenty-two miles north of us but it is still in the hands of the contractors and their rates are very high. It is forty miles more to the old C.P.R. and I may have to draw my wire and posts sixty miles. That will be quite a job but we can put on five teams and wagons.

I was down to Moose Jaw on the 23rd July 1913 as a delegate to the Stockman Meeting and at that meeting was choosen a delegate to wait on the Government of Saskatchewan and was in Regina on the 14th November and wished very much to go on and see you but had a lot to look after round home besides to settle up the years business. We will be having our stockmans meeting here and at Moose Jaw and if I am choosen delegate again I will write you as quick as I can so that you might meet me there.

I am very pleased to hear that your family are doing well and that you are in good circumstances for I think the Gunns should for the memory of their ancestors. George's daughter died some years ago. I saw his son Donald when I was in Swift Current last week and he is complaining of hard times and he showed it. William J. is working for a farmer at $35.00 a month and was complaining the wages was too low.They are both no D--- use. All the horses that George raised up are gone and did nothing but

ruin his two sons. George's wife and William and a little girl that Catherine picked up before she married are staying with Donald." (Note: little did William know that his son Victor would marry that very nice "little girl"--Annie).

William continues his April 1914 letter with "I had a letter from Bennie. He was asking about you, will mail him your letter. I am sending you a photo of the house we are living in. It is on Willie's homestead. Victor is got the light shirt and Alex the dark shirt and if you take a magnifying glass you may see more. I intend to get our pictures taken this summer and a branding scene.

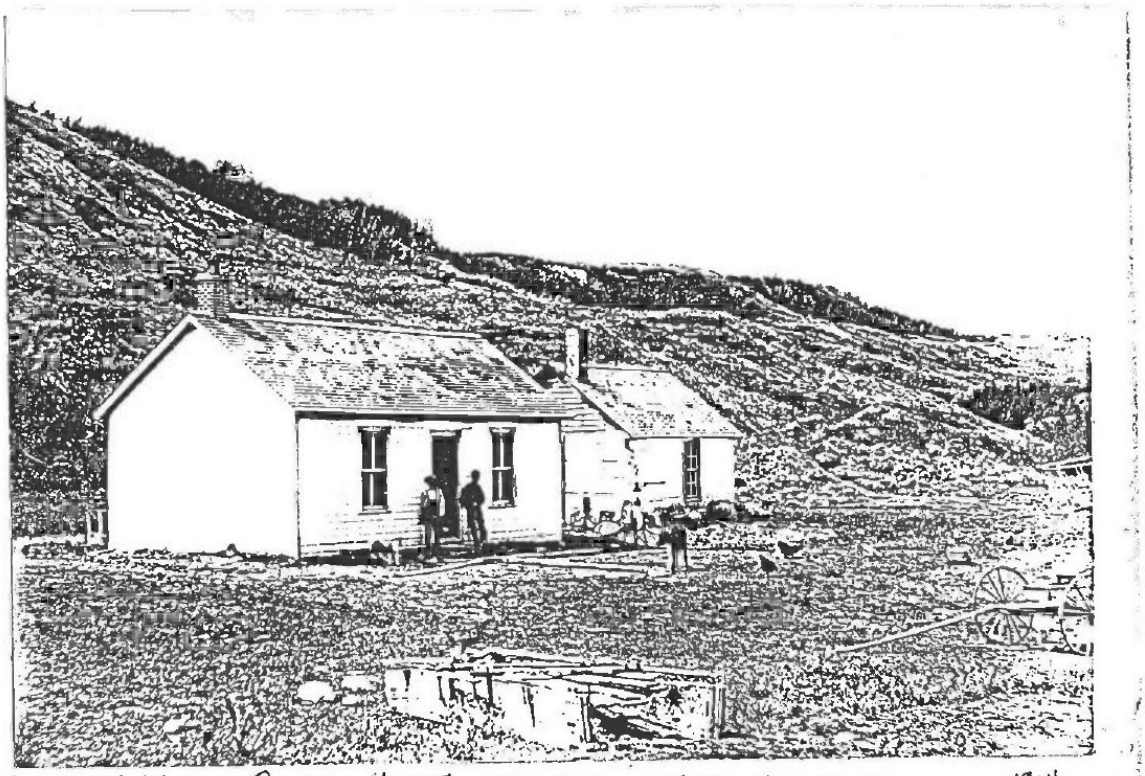
Kate and the boys were all very glad to hear from you and join me in sending all kinds of good wishes. As ever your brother W.G." He added a postscript "You ask if a person could buy cattle or horses. Cattle are as high here as any part of Canada. I refused thirty dollars a head for thirty yearling heifers. Very inferior milk cows are $75.00 or more. You could buy a carload of horses here or in Calgary at what you could make something on. If you intend to come and buy I will see the horses and get you the prices and give you as good an idea of the kind they are."

On the 1st May 1914 William wrote Donald a short note to tell him that he had been appointed delegate to the meeting in Moose Jaw June 10th to 12th. He would be staying at the Royal George Hotel and would be pleased to see Donald if he could come.

Another short note dated September 23rd, 1914 read: "Laird's Farm, 12-10-17 3 West, Mr Dear Brother, I write you a few lines to let you know that I am still on the move. I am on my way to Gull Lake with sixty head of cattle (beef). Part at seven cents and the others at six cents. Have a sixty mile drive. I am halfway. We are all quite well. I will be going as far as Moose Jaw. Sunday 27th-have been to Moose Jaw and sold them. They fetched me $75.62 1/2 each. How is oats in your part of the country? Got the range badly burnt off and will be feeling shakey all winter. Had twenty-two colts this season, 120 calves. Let me know what price oats is and steers under one year, one year old and two year old."

In his letter of March 23rd, 1915 William passes on some family news and talks about the winter they had: "Mr Dear Brother, I received a note or two from you since I wrote you last and was glad to see that you was well. We are all well and had a very fine winter. Very warm but with quite a lot of snow but the cattle did very well. 330 head fed themselves all winter. We wintered 113 calves and did not lose one so far. We fed them from 15th December to 15th March. They are are feeding themselves now but I still have a man looking after them.

I had a letter from Bennie, he would like to move into Saskatchewan. He thinks he could do better in the west. I wrote and told him to come and have a look. Kate got a letter from her



WILLIAM GUNN HOUSE - VICTOR & ALEX, HIS SONS 1914

sister Flora. She wrote thast Matilda was buried at the Portage. I haven't heard of Janet or Margaret for quite awhile. Ben mentioned that our late brother John's family were going to law with the late J.J.Gunn's widow about their property. I could not get Kate to go to visit you last Christmas. Very sorry that we did not go. I will be very busy. We will have to fence our range and do some breaking as we will have to grow our feed. With best wishes, I remain your brother, W. Gunn Sr."

The last letter that Donald received, or at least saved, from his bother William at Nummola, Sask. was dated April 18th, 1916 and was again addressed to his Dear Brother and said "I received your very welcome letter and I am very thankful to you for your very kind offer and invitation. Kate wished me to take her with me as she wishes to see you and your children. I think you would best send me a money order for one hundred dollars on the Merchant's Bank, Shaunavon and if you do I will be with you about the 24th May. I would drive to Gull Lake and take the train to Regina and you would have to give me instructions from there to your place and if you are far from the station I would write you that you could meet me at the station. You may think that I have put the amount rather high but if so I will return what is over or the whole of it to you if you need it. Would like very very much to go. My health is not as good as when we met last. Kate is well but is ageing.

You wished to know about my losses by the fire. I had about 300 tons of hay, a large calf shed 64x24 lunber, a stacking outfit worth about $150, eight head of horses-four of them died, twenty sections of pasture land where I got my hay, and things looked very blue with me. I had to go and hunt up hay and it was very hard to find a sufficent quantity at one place till I got to Mr. J.C.Strong, Eastend. He had about 1000 loads of hay or tons, some of it within a half mile of the railroad station and the furtherest of it two and a half miles. He held it at eight dollars a ton which I considered pretty high. After looking over the hay I bought 327 1/2 tons for $2,377.47 and got the right of six sections for pasture.

I came home last of last week. I had to put up the necessary buildings for wintering the stock. Cost for material $600.00, besides some hired labor and feed and our own time. I came out of the winter very good with 425 head of cattle and 170 horses. We should have about 150 calves or more and we have a possible chance of fifty colts. The boys are all well and are all still with us. We are just going to start fencing and have quite a few miles to build. We will be hauling our post sixty miles. Our horses are thin owing to the pasture being too small. You will see from the amount I have had to spend that money is getting very scarce. However a couple of years will put me alright. Kate and the boys join me in sending you our best wishes. Hoping to hear from you soon and favorable, I remain, your brother Wm. Gunn."

That is the last letter from William and from other letters that were saved by his brother Donald's family there was no mention of Uncle Willie or Aunt Kate visiting them at Devil's Lake. William died 26 August 1917 and his wife Kate (Catherine) died 06 June 1950. Both of them died, and are buried in the cemetery, at Shaunavon, Saskatchewan.

William Gunn and Catherine Ann Mowat had a total of nine children while they lived in Manitoba. Unfortunately five of them died in infancy. Headstones in Little Britain Church cemetery list two of them: Mary J. died 26 August 1881, age 1 year and 10 months and James, died 03 April 1882, age 1 year and one month. The names of the others were not listed.

Of the four surviving children the first child born to William Gunn and Catherine Mowat was Donald Edward Gunn, also known as Dan, who was born 02 December 1877 at St. Andrew's, Manitoba. He came west with his parents and, as was mentioned in his father's letters, helped on the ranch when they arrived. He died in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan in 1954 and is buried there. He was unmarried.

The second child was William Gunn, also unmarried, who was born 02 July 1888 at Little Britain. He died 09 June 1969 also at Shaunavon and is buried there.

The third child to survive of William Gunn and Catherine Mowat was Alexander Montgomery Gunn who was born 22 March 1891 at Selkirk, Manitoba. He married, on 26 June 1916, Bonna Marie Hardenne, born in Rhules, Belgium, a daughter of Jean Baptiste Hardenne and Josephine Kohl. Alexander Gunn died in Shaunavon on 20 April 1959 and Bonna Marie died, also at Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, on 20 May 1976. They had four sons and two daughters.

The first child of Alexander Gunn and Bonna Marie Hardeene was William Jean Baptiste Victor Gunn. He was born May 12th, 1917 in the Nummola district and lives in Shaunavon.

The second child was also a boy, Gilbert Gunn, who was born on February 22nd, 1919 and died on April 13th, 1919. He is buried at Shaunavon, Sask.

The third born was a girl, Amy Catherine Josephine Gunn who was born November 26, 1921 at Shaunavon. Amy married Spencer Johnstone on August 11th, 1942. They live in Shaunavon, Sask. They had one daughter, Levina Bonna Mae (Johnstone) Wilkins.

The next child to be born was Alexander Gunn, known as Chuck. He was born January 12, 1926 and married Helen Naismith on July 15, 1966 at Maple Creek, Sask. He was working at One Four, Alberta. He adopted the four girls of Helen Naismith so had a ready-made family to enjoy.

haunavon Stand

LIKED BY MANY—CUSSED BY SOME—READ BY EVERYBODY

SHAUNAVON, SASKATCHEWAN. THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1950 $2.50 per year.

VOLUME XXV, No. 41 • TEN PAGES

June 15, 1950

Link With Past Lost In Death of Mrs. Gunn

One of the last ties with the early days of the west was severed with the passing of one of the earliest settlers of Southwest Saskatchewan, on June 6th, Catherine Ann Gunn (nee Mowatt) went to the big beyond after a very short illness.

Mrs. Gunn was born November 27, 1857, at Kildonan on the Red River in what is now the province of Manitoba. She was a niece of the Honourable John Norquay who was the first and only native born Premier of Manitoba, when that province was formed. In 1877 she married William, the youngest son of the Honourable Donald Gunn, in Little Britain church near Kildonan. Donald Gunn came from Caithness in Scotland in 1812 and was one of the first of the Selkirk settlers. The young couple established themselves farming and ranching near Kildonan where their nine children were born. Five of the children died in infancy and in 1901 the remaining four came west with their parents who established themselves on a ranch on the Swift Current creek south of Gull Lake. As the country settled up range land became restricted and the family moved in 1910 to the ranch on the Whitemud River where Mrs. Gunn lived until her death. Her husband, who will be remembered by many of the early settlers, predeceased her in 1917. The four children who came west with the family, Donald, William, Alec and Victor still farm and ranch in the vicinity of the Whitemud. Also left to mourn the passing of a grand old lady are five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Far and wide on the western plains are those who will always remember being hospitably received and entertained at the Gunn ranch. Imbued as she was with the "good neighborliness" of the early settlers and the younger generation who were always cheerfully received and found a meal, no matter the hour, while riding in the vicinity. The funeral was held in the United Church, Shaunavon, on June 9 with Rev. A. G. Rice officiating. Pallbearers were L. Gagnon, F. Speirs, H. Hardenne, F. Gehlen, T. White and D. Hoogestraat, all old friends and neighbors.

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank all our neighbors and friends who so kindly helped and remembered us in our reecnt bereavement.

—The Gunn family and nephew William. 41-1p

Another boy was born into the Alexander Gunn and Bonna Marie Hardenne family on April 28, 1932, James Douglas Gunn. He too was born at Shaunavon, Sask. He married Vivian Carpenter on June 20, 1959 at Nakusp, British Columbia.

The last born child of Alexander Montgomery Gunn and Bonna Marie Hardenne was Doreen Bonnie Gunn, born September 10, 1935. She married Raymond Wright on August 27, 1952 at Shaunavon, Sask.

The youngest member of the William Gunn and Catherine Mowat family to survive and come to southwest Saskatchewan was Victor John Gunn who was born 22 June 1897. He married, in February 1920, Annie Gunn. She was a daughter of Catherine Gunn-George Gunn's daughter. Victor died in Medicine Hat, Alberta 21 June 1975. Annie died in 1981. They had no children.

Not only did William Gunn not live long enough to know that his son Victor married George's grandaughter, but he also didn't know that George's sons would turn out to be good, hardworking men.

ANNIE + VICTOR GUNN, TABER, AB. 1954

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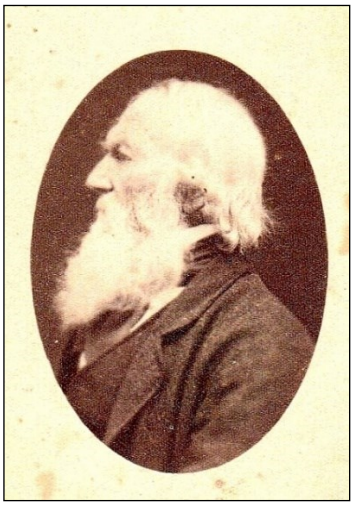
2025. This line seems to be barely surviving. There may be one ongoing line from William Gunn 1848-1917 and Catherine Mowat 1857-1950. That line is from their fifth child Alexander Montgomery Gunn 1891-1959 / Bonna Marie Hardenne. Alexander and Bonnie had six children but only Amy Gunn born 1921 married and she had at least one child who also married.

Appendix One – Sketch of the life of the late Hon. Donald Gunn *by C.R. Tuttle*



Hon. Donald Gunn, Canada

SKETCH OF THE LIFE of the late HON. DONALD GUNN; *author presumably C.R. Tuttle*

Being from *History of Manitoba from the earliest settlement to 1835 by the late Hon. Donald Gunn, and from the admission of the province into the Dominion* by *Charles R. Tuttle* (Ottawa, 1880).

Prominently one whose scholarly instinct was of a verity a part of his nature, the author of the History of which this brief notice is a prefix, Donald Gunn, was born in the Parish of Halkirk in the County of Caithness, Scotland, in the year 1797, and sprang from that strong and fertile class of peasant farmers whose health of body and mind-nurtured in the frugal simplicity of their native hill—has furnished so many worthy sons to the stout old land that gave them birth. A land whose scant nurture and limited scope, while it conserves so much, yet breeds a necessity enriching other shores than those of the rugged peninsula stretching its rocky arm into the wild northern seas, sending out, from time to time, to the great unoccupied spaces her colonizing children, who achieve by virtue of inherent and trained qualities—that stand them ever instead—a success second to none, if equaled by any.

Of the children of the tenant of the old farm house in the strath of Braeholme *(correctly Braehour, this error has bedeviled many biographies of Donald Gunn)*, two furnish worth proof of this fact, an elder son seeking at an earl day his fortune in the wilds of Australia, becoming in due course of time one of the largest wool growers and sheep farmers in the colony *(this reference is to William Gunn of Waranga Park in Victoria, Australia mentioned elsewhere in this text)*: the other, the subject of our memoir, who turning his face to the west, wrought out amid the ice and snow of the northern land, not only fair fortune but an honored name.

It was in the Parish School of Halkirk that the blue-eyed, fair haired Scotch lad first mastered the mystic signs that were to prove to him in after years, such unvarying delight. Here the speech of the Hills took precedence, and the Gaelic (the tongue the Scotsmen fondly boast contains all others) found an apt and loving pupil; one who the latest years of his life knew no poet king save Ossian, no loftier flight than that of the strong wing of the early Scottish bard, whose bold imaginings conned by the boy on the mist clad heights of the tempestuous shore, resonant with the mighty music of the sea, found quick interpretation, and were framed kindred elevation, leaving a picture no time could fade.

Secondary, came the alien English—the strange classic spoken by the Southerns—that lent dignity to the little school-house, whose curriculum boasted these two alone, yet in themselves an education holding all of flexibility and power that written or spoken thought demands, an equipment, seeming slender, in reality full of pith.

Happily for the boy, the hills and valley, the storm and sunshine on the heather-clad braes, the glory and changeful lights of his mountain, sea grit home, these too were his teachers. Here following the herds, or watching the browsing, wandering sheep, he drank in a tranquil strength he little wot of, received the silent benison of nature, knitting together the robust tissues that make life a harmony, a forceful quietude, breeding strength for cheerful essay of all tasks, admirably fitted for the one that now came quickly to his youthful hand.

The Hudson's Bay Company, who had depots and shipping ports on the neighbouring islands, had long been in the habit of mainly recruiting their force of servants among the hardy, frugal people in the north of Scotland and the Orkney Isles. Their ships were the 'argosies' that freighted fortunes from the distant shores of Hudson's Bay; and their ships were to the simple youth of the coast—wearied with an unremunerative toil that held no future—the brave craft that would bear them to a better fate. The slender stipend promised seemingly, by home comparison, large indeed.

Young Donald, now some sixteen summers, urged by such thoughts, and a love of wandering that seems instinctive at a certain period of life, aware of the large number of families being sent out by the Earl of Selkirk, engaged with the local agent, and in the year of grace, 1813, found himself duly enrolled as servant of the great fur trading company, and bound for York Factory, on Hudson's Bay, in company with the Pilgrim Fathers of the North-West, now widely known as the Selkirk Settlers. (Note taken from Hudson's Bay Company Archives**;** Donald is described in 1814-1815 as with "dark brown hair, strong, well made", but "desires to return home.")

The future historian will yet linger over the pages of this volume, in seeking to portray anew the story of these people. No record of colonial life is more affecting than the tearful embarkation of these cottagers, their hardships at the bay, and the culminating and dreadful distresses in which they and their helpless families were plunged on their arrival at the Red River, caused by their miserable and unexpected involvement in the deadly strife and murderous competition of the two great rival companies, their own protectors and the wild half-savage men of the "North-West"

The suffering is so real and persistent, their patience so admirable, their helpless acceptance of the most grievous situation so simple and unostentatious, that it hardly seems real; deepening our sympathy and

admiration as we look upon the picture of to-day, the smiling farms of their children and descendants, where plenty and peace brood over the spot fraught to their progenitors with terror, flight and distress.

The life of a "Company man'—in the phrase of the country—is either fraught with incident or entirely uneventful, being simply a matter of locality. "The Severn District", abutting upon, "the Bay," in which Mr. Gunn passed his ten years of service, was the natural stronghold of the Hudson's Bay men, peopled by peaceful, inoffensive Indians, and productive of no marked event, while at the same time the plains to the west—as is seen in this narrative—were, with the Red River Country, the theatre of a warfare so fatal to the contestants as to impel the coalition of the great rivals, the North-West Company being merged into that of the Hudson's Bay in the year 1821.

But the time, to a man of Mr. Gunn's energetic character, and thirst for knowledge, was not—if barren of event—unprofitably spent. His vicinity to the great depot of the north, and his early promotion to the position of a lesser postmaster, threw him continually into the society of the leading men of the Company, from whose conversation he derived a great store of exact information touching the past and contemporaneous history of the great governing Corporation. He was also enabled to acquire, by loan or purchase, books, and the digest of his acquisitions at his period, as shown in conversation and reminiscences in after years, was of singular fullness and value. An immense amount of local character detail of the most unique and interesting description has by his decease, been forever lost to the lesser records of our colonial history, a loss as great to us in the future as would have been the early destruction of "Pepys' Diary" to the English people.

The year 1819 was to Mr. Gunn alike a memorable and happy one, he then marrying Margaret, the eldest daughter of James Swain, Esquire, the officer in charge of the York District, a union blessed and fortunate in every respect—one unbroken for a period of fifty years.

That the newly married couple were in no danger of being at the time of their marriage enervated by luxury, Mr. Gunn would, with a keen recollection of the time and their freedom from care and grief, amusingly relate. In addition to the usual allowance of small stores, their outfit of meats and breadstuffs was more suggestive than real, consisting of a "flint trade gun," ammunition, and twine for nets. The hardship was but in seeming, game and fish abounded, Indian and traders alike resorted to their well stocked "preserves" for subsistence, and, possibly, the jaded epicures of the city would have envied the young couple their keen enjoyment of their woodland fare.

A deprivation more felt was at times when in recent possession of a treasured book, to be without candles or oil, when thinly split pitch pine fagots would light up the house, drag from their shadowy coverts the finest print, and convert the snug log dwelling, nestled in evergreens, into a hall of learning, where each recurring page folded down and conserved satisfactions remembered through life.

It being found inexpedient by the Hudson's Bay Company after the absorption of the North-West, to maintain so large a force as the united employees of the late Company and its own, certain reductions were determined upon, and Mr. Gunn gladly availed himself of the opportunity to retire. With his wife and newly born son, he followed his old friends, the "Selkirk Settlers," to the Red River, settling in what is now the Parish of St. Andrews, but which he and a few friends of certainly ambitious loyalty for the time, named

"Little Britain," scarce for seeing that their tiny speck of civilization would ripen so quickly, and assure here and to the west a "Greater Britain."

The locality chosen, however, proved to be a good one, and drew about it a more than usually intelligent class of "freemen," as the retired servants of the Company were called; among them Mr. William Smith, and English worthy full of strong, honest points, one of the most genial and humorous of men, who had also married a daughter of Mr. Swain, and was after appointed Secretary to the Council of Assiniboia and Clerk of the Local Courts, an office which he held until his death.

Happily for the new farmers, these were the halcyon days of the hunters. Buffalo were near and plenty, the net was ever in the water, sturgeon and "gold eyes" daily fare. Without ploughs, tools or cattle, their first attempts at agriculture were of the rudest description; putting down wheat with a hoe, the quantity of seed is not hard to surmise, yet from such a beginning ere many years—aided by his stout sons—spacious stone house with ample stabling for the large stock of horses and horned animals, and abundant grain, made the homestead of Donald Gunn one of the foremost in the entire settlement, one whose abundance made glad many a luckless soul.

After an interval of ten years spent in active farming, Mr. Gunn found himself, by the increasing size and usefulness of his large family so relieved from personal attention to the farm, that he was enabled to take charge of the Parish School established, and, with the exception of the very slight contributions of the parents, supported by the Mission Society of the English Church.

This task, one held in the highest honor and respect in those primitive days—to the shame of our own diminished and unwise estimate be it spoken—was one so congenial to his taste, that, fortunately for the youth of both sexes in his charge, it was continued without intermission by him for the long period of eighteen years.

A period of usefulness in one of the highest and most responsible functions possible to an individual, one which while training others had disciplined and fitted for distinction many of our best thinkers and actors in the world of statecraft and of letters.

This was, in the case of Mr. Gunn, very distinctly avouched, not only in the career of numbers of his pupils who attained to positions of public trust and honor, but even more certainly, if less marked, in the sustained life impress made upon all, intelligence bearing fruit by many a fireside, unseen rivulets trained to fertilize and make glad an otherwise barren field.

Had the classes in charge of Mr. Gunn been fired with the same student ardor—simple and pure love of knowledge for its own sake—as their teacher, his task, always an arduous one, would have been slight indeed. Its compensation lay in the fact that he was at least at the Centre of all literary lore in the North-West, in contact with such varied and sufficient printed erudition as made him more than content.

When, later, made custodian and librarian in his own house of the only public collection of books in the country, he was fairly environed with satisfaction, each tome a silent friend.

The spacious stone farm-house to which we have adverted, was always the hospitable home, alike of the purposeless tourist or the wandering Savant who sought its well known doors in search of special facts in the physical geography or natural history of the vast terra incognita of which the Red River settlement was the threshold.

At Donald Gunn's, the stranger found not only the warmth of a home, but an intelligence which threw light on all detail of purposed travel and entered into and discussed every them of scientific research.

The personal characteristics of Mr. Gunn were of the most engaging character. In an intercourse of nearly twenty years we fail to recall other than the most genial and unaffected cordiality to all; super added to this, his varied powers of conversation, replete with valuable matter gathered from all sources, his sense of humor lighting up old Gaelic lore, the traditions of the Viking race from whom he sprung, the rough adventures and eccentricities of the hero worthies of "the trade" the early and chequered life in the settlement, with a vein of grounded culture running through all, made him to be one of the most companionable and instructive of men.

An Elder in the Kirk for many years, Mr. Gunn's liberality of thought—in this direction—would have been marked were it not for the general charity and largest tolerance universal in the country. Latterly, when he had retired mainly from public affairs, nearly all of Mr. Gunn's time was occupied in the preparation of this history, arranging his collated facts and personal experience with such care and patience as will doubtless cause it to be—as he intended it should be—an authority upon all the matters coming under his hands. Towards the close of his life, his sight failing him, it was his greatest pleasure to have some one read aloud to him from his favorite authors, his mind retaining its force and clearness until a few hours before his death. This occurred on the last day of November, 1878, in his own house, surrounded by his family, the parting being so peaceful as to be literally falling asleep.

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Appendix Two - A simplified descendant indented chart for Donald Gunn *by Alastair Gunn*

Donald GUNN (Hon.) of Manitoba b. 1797 Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. 1878 St Andrew, Little Britain, Manitoba
+Margaret SWAIN b. 1802 York Factory, Rupertsland, Manitoba, m. 1819, d. 1870 Little Britain, Manitoba
├── **William Henry GUNN** b. 1820 York Factory, Rupertsland, Manitoba, d. 1842 Red River Settlement, Manitoba
+Isabella ROSS b. 1820 Oregon Territory, m. 1841 Red River Settlement, Manitoba, d. 1865 St Johns, Red River Settlement, Manitoba
└── **Henrietta GUNN** b. 1841, d. 1869 Pembina, North Dakota
├── **James GUNN** b. 1824 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1905 St Andrews, Manitoba
+Mary DONALD chr. 1825, m. circa 1862, d. 1890
└── **Margaret Ann GUNN** (2635), b. 1864 Kildonan, Rupertsland, Manitoba
├── **John GUNN (Hon.) of Manitoba** b. 1826 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1898 St Andrews, Manitoba
+Emma GARRIOCH b. 1824 St Johns, Red River Settlement, Manitoba, m. 1855 Winnipeg, Manitoba, d. 1922 St Boniface, Manitoba
├── **Margaret Jane GUNN** b. 1855 Kildonan, Manitoba, d. 1927 Fairford, Manitoba
├── **William Reginald GUNN** b. 1857 Kildonan, Manitoba, d. 1910 Melfort, Saskatchewan
├── **Donald John GUNN** b. 1859 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. after 1901 Calgary, Alberta
├── **John James GUNN** b. 1861 Kildonan, Manitoba, d. 1907 Selkirk, Manitoba
├── **Emma Ann GUNN** b. 1862 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1950 Selkirk, Manitoba
├── **Mary GUNN** b. 1865 Selkirk, Manitoba, d. 1948 St Andrews, Manitoba
├── **Henry George GUNN (Rev.)** b. 1866 Selkirk, Manitoba, d. 1945 Lockport, Manitoba.
└── **Gilbert Garrioch GUNN** b. 1868 Kildonan, Manitoba, d. 1933 Selkirk, Manitoba
├── **Alexander GUNN** b. 1829 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1902 Little Britain, Manitoba
+Angelique MACKENZIE b. 1832, m. 1854 Kildonan, Rupertsland, Manitoba, d. 1905 Little Britain, Manitoba
├── **Benjamin McKenzie GUNN** b. 11 December 1854 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1930 St Andrews, Manitoba
+Elizabeth Taylor (daughter of his Aunt Margaret Gunn). Descendants.
├── **Eliza / Elise Margaret GUNN** b. 14 April 1857 St Andrews.[3] Manitoba d. 1875.
├── **Lucy GUNN** b. 1858 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1878
├── **Colin Roderick GUNN** b. 1863 St Andrews, Manitoba. Did he exist? DWI?
├── **Alexander James GUNN** b. 1865 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1865 St Andrews, Manitoba
├── **Donald GUNN** b. 31 August 1867 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1962. Married Letitia Muckle, daughter of Janet Gunn (his father's sister) and Alexander Montgomery Muckle 1844-1908.
├── **Annabella H. GUNN b. 1871**
└── **Alexander William Montgomery Muckle GUNN** b. 1873 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1952 Selkirk, Manitoba. Married Johanne 'Joan' Maria Johnston.
├── **Matilda GUNN** b. 1831 St Andrews, Manitoba
+John ATKINSON b. 1825, m. 1860 St Andrews, Manitoba
├── **George GUNN** b. 1833 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1901 Swift Current, Saskatchewan
+Eliza WINECHILD m. circa 1870 Red River Settlement, Manitoba
├── **Donald Edward GUNN** b. 1877 Mire Creek, North West Territory, d. 1954 Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
├── **Eliza Margaret GUNN** b. 1879 Dark Sand Hills, North West Territory, d. 1883 Red Deer River, NWT
├── **Catherine Jane GUNN** b. 1882 Parkberg, North West Territory, d. 1910
└── **Nancy GUNN** b. 1872 Fort Garry, Manitoba, d. 1959 Maple Creek, Saskatchewan
+Eliza OTTERSKIN m. after 1873 Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan, d. 1917 (Were there two wives?)
├── **Max GUNN**
└── **William James GUNN** b. 1890 Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, d. 1989 Swift Current, Saskatchewan
├── **Jane GUNN** b. 1835 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1844 St Andrews, Manitoba
├── **Margaret GUNN** b. 1838 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. after 1881
+William TAYLOR m. 19 Feb 1856 Kildonan, Rupertsland, Manitoba
└── **Elizabeth Mary TAYLOR** (2603), b. 1857
├── **Donald GUNN** b. 1840 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1927 Devils Lake, Saskatchewan

[3] See https://www.redriverancestry.ca/GUNN-ALEXANDER-1829.php

+**Caroline BELLENDINE** b. 1846 Grand Rapids, Manitoba, m. 1867, d. 1878
- **Donald James GUNN** b. 1868 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1917 Lintlaw, Saskatchewan
- **George GUNN** b. 1870 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1943 Preeceville, Saskatchewan
- **Annabelle Ellen GUNN** b. 1871 Little Britain, Manitoba, d. 1959 Preeceville, Manitoba
- **William Henry GUNN** b. 1874 Little Britain, Manitoba, d. 1906 Canora Area, Saskatchewan
- **Margaret Francis GUNN** b. 1876 Little Britain, Manitoba, d. 1964 Preeceville, Manitoba
- **Unnamed GUNN** b. 1878 Little Britain, Manitoba, d. 1878 Little Britain, Manitoba

+**Sarah FIDLER** b. 1851 Rupertsland, Manitoba, m. 1881 St Pauls, Manitoba, d. 1897 Devils Lake, Saskatchewan
- **Unnamed GUNN** b. 1882 Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan, d. 1882 Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan
- **John Alexander GUNN** b. 1883 Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan, d. 1947 Fort San, Saskatchewan
- **Amelia Mary GUNN** b. 1885 Fort Qu'appelle, Saskatchewan

Robert GUNN b. 1842 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1843 St Andrews, Manitoba

Janet GUNN b. 1846 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1930 Muckle's Creek, Manitoba

+**Alexander Montgomery MUCKLE** b. 1844 Quebec City, Quebec, d. 1908 Clandeboye, Manitoba
- **Anna Hollins MUCKLE**
- **Monty MUCKLE**
- **Alexander Montgomery MUCKLE**
- **Robert James Tennant MUCKLE** b. 1875
- **Leticia Margaret MUCKLE** b. 1877, d. 1914

William GUNN b. 1848 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1917 Shaunavon, Saskatchewan

+**Catherine Ann MOWAT** b. 1857 Kildonan, Manitoba, m. 1876 Little Britain, Man., d. 1950 Shaunavon, Sask.
- **Donald Edward GUNN** b. 1877 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1954 Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
- **Mary Jane GUNN** b. 1879 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1881 St Andrews, Manitoba
- **James GUNN** b. 1881 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1882 St Andrews, Manitoba
- **Janet GUNN** b. 1884 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1886 St Andrews, Manitoba
- **Isabella Catherine GUNN** b. 1886 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1887 St Andrews, Manitoba
- **William GUNN** b. 1888 St Andrews, Manitoba, d. 1969 Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
- **Alexander Montgomery GUNN** b. 1891 Selkirk, Saskatchewan, d. 1959 Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
- **Victor John GUNN** b. 1897 Gunview, Saskatchewan

More detail can readily be found by searching ‘Ancestry’ on the internet.

Appendix Three – About Margaret Gunn of Waranga Park, Victoria, Australia's trip to Canada 1883

By Alastair Gunn

The Gunns lived at Waranga Park, a very large rural property in country Victoria, Australia. William Gunn of Waranga Park, was half-brother to Donald Gunn of Manitoba.

The following is an 1893 letter by William Gunn's wife Cecilia to her husband's niece Janet Gunn Muckle (1846-1930) in Canada on 6 October 1893. Janet[4] was the daughter of the Honourable Donald Gunn of Manitoba, Canada - see Chapter 14 - and she married Alexander Montgomery Muckle. See, as well, pages 6, 46 and 175. The tone and detail in the letter show a long-lasting, close link to that branch of the Canadian family. It also reveals major family tensions in the Waranga Gunns especially regarding the eldest daughter Margaret (Marnie), her second daughter Janet and her fourth daughter Elizabeth (Bessie). Alexander the second son and fifth child is also mentioned. The wealth of the family is obvious given it includes international travel in the major depression which impacted on Victoria in the 1890s.

Waranga Park,
October 6, 1893

My Dear Mrs Muckle

... We are here moving along in the old way and each doing his and her duties as well we can. Our boys are here preparing for the shearing which begins in a fortnight. We have had a very wet winter and the earth has got a fine soaking a state if things very desirable here and now as the warm weather advances everything looks lovely and green. Our garden looks charming at the present the flowers these gems of the earth being all in bloom and in all the gayest hues of color. Our homestead is very pleasantly situated on rising ground which slopes down to a small water course where Alexander made an embankment which conserves a fine sheet of water for our garden. But I am forgetting that Marnie has been with you for I am sure her valuble tongue will have described everything here to you.

I suppose you hear from Marnie oftener than we do for she seemed to enjoy herself very much while with you. Don't you think it very queer of her staying there among strangers so far from her own family more especially while her old mother is in the land of the living. I must tell you Janet that I was very angry with Marnie before she left here and I think you will say I had reason when I tell you that she never entered her sister Bessie's home since she was married although her place is not two miles from here and I must tell you Bessie did not make a low marriage by any means. The Ingrams are all very respectable and Bessie chose Mr. Alex from among many wooers. They are a very happy couple and she has a neat and pretty country home and a freehold of over 1000 acres of good land. Bessie has been in better health lately since the last operation was performed, she has improved greatly. I forget whether I told you that Bessie had a second operation we had her over here for a time and two doctors attended her. Her side being probed four times while under the influence of chloroform. I don't know whether Marnie knows all this or not as I never wrote her about it. As it seems to me Marnie estimation to be married is to have committed the unpardonable

[4] For more on Janet, her marriage to Alexander Muckle and life at the Red River Settlement see https://www.redriverancestry.ca/MUCKLE-ALEXANDER.php.

sin. I have no doubt that Marnie will be very much disappointed at her brother not taking the trip home that he intended taking when she left here. Since then our monetary institutions have been tumbling down one after another and causing a great deal of anxiety and loss to many who had their all invested in them. This state of things doubtless influenced Alex to give up his trip to the old country and to your big country and its big show. Some little time before I received your letter I noticed in a newspaper the death of your husband's relative Sir McClure and I was wondering whether any of his wealth would come your way but in your letter you say not. Well never mind Janet … I had a letter from Jane McDonald a short time complaining greatly of Marnie for not paying her a visit when she was so near you. Do you think Marnie knew their whereabouts when she left you… With kind love and regards to Mr Muckle self and young folks. Believe me ever your afftly.

CC GUNN (signed)

Cecilia Cormack died 18 October 1906 in Rushworth, Vic.

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A brief life of Margaret 'Marnie' Gunn –

Margaret (Marnie) Gunn was born in October 1850 in Caithness. She was on the census of 30 March 1861 in the household of her uncle James and aunt Margaret Cormack in Sinclair Terrace, Pulteney East, Wick, Caithness.[5] She (and her younger sister Janet) emigrated in 1874 to Melbourne. It seems unusual that Marnie and her younger sister Janet waited so long to emigrate given their mother and brother William the younger left in 1857 - and first class. Marnie still lived at Rushworth (Waranga Basin) in the 1909 electoral roll but later moved - she died, unmarried, on 16 September 1929 at 'Longford', Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, Melbourne in a large, two-storey Victorian home.[6] The suburb was and is a wealthy area. She was buried in the family vault at Rushworth.[7]

For the complete life of the Waranga Gunns see
https://www.academia.edu/47908859/William_Gunn_1804_1888_of_Waranga_Basin_Victoria_Australia_A_Braehour_Gunn_and_half_brother_to_the_Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba

[5] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[6] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[7] 'Rushworth Chronicle' 26 July 1929.

Appendix Four - Further books relating to Braehour Gunns and Clan Gunn history

See **https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/awgunn** for details on all the texts.

Alastair Gunn, *Braehour Gunns: some lives.*

Alastair Gunn, *Donald Gunn J.P. 1832-1901: from Brawlbin, Caithness, Scotland to Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.*

A further book on the Tormsdale Gunns is near completion.

Alastair Gunn and Donald Gunn, *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn (Dalnaha, Strathmore and Braehour).* This book has much Gunn data for 'mining' - it is the least readable of the books here.

Material is repeated in the above texts.

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Alastair Gunn *The Gunns: History, Myths and Genealogy* (a detailed, reference history of Clan Gunn)

Alastair Gunn *The real history of (Clan) Gunn* (a short history of Clan Gunn)